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THE AWARD-WINNING NEWSPAPER



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THE ENGLISH WAY OF SEX



A quiet street, an 'ordinary' TV star and an extraordinary killing



Jill Dando with her fiancé, Alan Partridge. The couple were due to marry in September

DETECTIVES hunting the murderer of the television presenter Jill Dando were looking last night for a "well-groomed" man who was seen fleeing from her home seconds after she was shot on her doorstep.

The BBC celebrity's next-door neighbour heard her scream before rushing to the door to find her slumped on the step. She was unconscious and covered in blood. A post-mortem examination last night revealed a single gunshot wound to the head.

Last night, as tributes poured in for a television presenter whose immense popularity was based on her down-to-earth appeal, police said they were investigating whether Ms Dando, 38, had been killed by a stalker. Only last year, police were called to deal with an obsessive fan who was tormenting her with phone calls and letters, though he is not suspected of having anything to do with yesterday's events.

Ms Dando, who had recently announced her engagement and was preparing for the wedding in September, was attacked late yesterday morning as she returned to her house in Fulham, west London. Her assailant struck seconds after she stepped out of her car.

An ambulance crew was called to the scene and strug-

gled to revive her before she was transferred to Charing Cross Hospital. She died a little over an hour later, at 1.03pm. Her fiancé, Alan Partridge, was called to identify the body.

Richard Hughes 32, a financial trader who lived next door to the *Crimewatch* and *Holiday* programme presenter, said he had been upstairs when he heard her pull up outside and activate her car alarm. "Forty seconds later, I heard a scream... She was completely unconscious and covered in blood. I took a look at her, she was not breathing. Somebody called the emergency services."

Police immediately launched a massive hunt for Ms Dando's killer, with three dozen officers involved in house-to-house inquiries. Yesterday evening they sealed off a section of Thames riverbank at Putney, where there were reports that someone may have flung something into the hushes. Police confirmed they had found an object - possibly a weapon - but it was not clear whether they were linking it to the killing.

Detective Chief Inspector Hamish Campbell, leading the investigation, said police were investigating every possibility including the prospect that Ms



Crime officers inspecting Gowan Avenue, Fulham, west London, where Jill Dando was shot on her doorstep yesterday

Peter Macdiarmid

Dando had been the victim of a stalker.

Tributes to Ms Dando, were led yesterday by Tony Hall, chief executive of BBC News. He said: "Everyone in BBC News is devastated. She was a wonderful person to work with and was respected and trusted by millions."

The murder was even discussed in the Commons with tributes from the Home Secretary and shadow Home Secretary. Other tributes were made by the Queen and Tony Blair.

Ms Dando's brother, Nigel, a

reporter on the *Bristol Evening Post*, said he learnt of the tragedy early reports of an "incident" involving his sister. He said the news had come as a "huge shock" both to himself and his widowed father.

Martyn Lewis, a colleague on the *Six O'Clock News*, added: "Bewildered, tears and quiet anger fill the BBC newsroom today."

Nick Ross, her co-presenter on *Crimewatch*, said: "It's just so terrible. She was a smashing person. You could not

say anything bad about her."

Ms Dando was at the peak of her career. Despite stepping back from newsreading and handing over the lead role in the *Holiday* programme, her new *Antiques* programme was due to be broadcast on Sunday. Advance publicity for the show saw her posing on the front of the *Radio Times*, clad in a leather catsuit in front of an Aston Martin.

Last night, detectives had taken away Ms Dando's car, a BMW convertible, as scene-of-crime officers scoured the area

outside her house for possible clues. Officers last night erected an incident tent as they continued to work throughout the evening. Detectives confirmed there was no sign of a forced entry at the house and there was nothing to link the attack to her work with *Crimewatch*.

Earlier this year, at a reception to mark the 10th anniversary of the programme, Ms Dando admitted she had been concerned about her personal safety after taking the job. During one interview, she said:

"It upsets me that there are such brutal people... I take great care over home security and about walking home in the dark. But I also know that crimes are very rare."

Police said they were looking

for a dark-haired man in his late thirties to early forties. He was smartly dressed and carried a mobile phone.

Full reports, pages 2, 3
David Aaronovitch,
Review page 3

EU imposes ban on Serb trade

EUROPE TIGHTENED the screws on President Slobodan Milosevic yesterday, approving plans to choke off fuel supplies, targeting the Yugoslav leader personally and making it illegal to assist the repair of economic assets destroyed by Nato air strikes.

Despite the oil embargo's potential for provoking tensions with Moscow the package is calculated to heighten the political isolation of Belgrade and its ruling elite.

Yugoslavia buys about 50,000 tonnes of crude a month from Moscow. Russia's Foreign Minister, Igor Ivanov, yesterday said only the United Nations could impose sanctions, and that a Nato-backed embargo would not be binding on Russia.

A spokesman from the Fuel and Energy Ministry was more categorical: Russian oil deliveries will continue, he said.

The new European Union

measures were put in place as Tony Blair warned that the economic and military campaign against Yugoslavia would intensify until the Milosevic regime backed down.

On his return from the Nato summit in Washington, the Prime Minister rejected charges from within his own party that he is Nato's most "hawkish" leader but said there was no question of compromise with the Serb leader over the alliance's demands for restoring peace to Kosovo.

"In respect of being a hawk or not a hawk, it's nothing to do with that. Having taken this action, we have got to see it through," Mr Blair told the Commons.

"Some of the stories of the

cruelty and barbarity practised by Serb militia are evil beyond belief... Nato will and must prevail. It is our collective task now to make that victory of justice over evil, a reality for Kosovo's long-suffering people," he said.

He warned that "grave consequences" would follow if Mr Milosevic attempted to destabilise the region with military action in the pro-Western Yugoslav republic of Montenegro, and in Hungary, Romania,

Macedonia, Albania and Bulgaria.

"It is not an aim of military action to remove Milosevic, but while Milosevic remains in power, the security of the region is more difficult," he said.

Meeting in Luxembourg, EU foreign ministers extended a travel ban on Belgrade businessmen to people with close ties to the Milosevic regime and family. President Milosevic and his cronies will also be brought

under the scope of a freeze on assets held by the Yugoslav government. "The package is getting tighter and tighter," said one EU diplomat. "This means that if the telephone system is bombed people cannot export mobile phones to help communications. The problem, of course, is enforcement."

The EU is stepping up pressure on eastern European countries that aspire to membership of the bloc to back the oil embargo. Joschka Fischer, Germany's Foreign Minister, said the sanctions package represented "a broad recognition of the seriousness of the situation and a general desire to pursue the policy adopted so far".

Mr Fischer moved to defuse concern over the oil blockade and the fear that Nato warships will seek to stop and search Russian ships. The Washington summit had not gone that far, he said. The EU ban will

be policed by member states.

EU ministers failed to agree a full ban on sporting contacts with Yugoslavia, and neutral countries expressed reservations about the Nato action. However, both Rome and Athens agreed to the oil embargo despite earlier reservations.

Meanwhile Strobe Talbott, the US envoy, is due in Moscow today and Kofi Annan, the UN secretary-general, will visit later this week. Despite potential tensions over the oil embargo, relations between Nato and Moscow have softened. Nato has stressed the importance of Russia's role as possible mediator. Russia has toned down its anti-Nato rhetoric. It is eyeing prizes down the road - the glory of eventually playing peacemaker, and the prospect that the Yugoslav conflict will ultimately damage Nato.

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The mourning struck a strange note in the context of country at war

"IT'S JUST like Princess Diana," was one comment reported from inside BBC Television Centre yesterday after Jill Dando's murder. And as tributes came in from sources as elevated as the Queen, the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary and Sir Cliff Richard, an extraordinary sense of national mourning did seem to be taking shape.

BY JOHN DAVISON

and TVs, following the developments. Tears were being shed. The Jill Dando Internet site even became an impromptu book of remembrance, as fans left tributes at the rate of two "hits" per second. While friends spoke of a genuinely nice, grounded person and a fine professional who never got carried away with her own celebrity, it all nevertheless struck a strange note in a country at war abroad and in fear of racist bombings at home. Tony Blair took time away from preparing his Commons statement on the Nato summit

to frame a suitable response. "He was deeply shocked. He had met her both professionally and socially at Downing Street and in common with many people he found her totally charming and highly talented," a spokesman reported. From Buckingham Palace, the Queen was said to be "shocked and saddened". Ms Dando had helped the Duke of York to promote the Fight for Sight charity, of which he is patron, and he was also particularly saddened by the news, a spokesman said. Sir Cliff Richard, a close friend and fellow Christian, spoke from Copenhagen where

he is on tour. "I'm finding it really hard not to wish Jill's killer a horrific death. I'm absolutely shattered," he said. Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown said: "Jill Dando was a hugely popular broadcaster. It is a terrible irony that, after all her work defending the victims of crime and help in pursuing criminals, she should fall victim herself to an horrific crime." In the Commons, Jack Straw spoke of the "tragic and appalling loss". His statement on the Brixton and Brick Lane nail bombings came later. In response to Sir Norman Fowler, the shadow Home Secretary,

who raised the subject, Mr Straw said: "She was someone who was at the height of her powers. She had done a huge amount personally in the fight against crime by her role not least in *Crimewatch UK* and therefore this makes her death all the more poignant." BBC Director General Sir John Birt said: "This is devastating news. Jill was loved by her audiences and by everyone who worked with her at the BBC. Jill's public and private persona were one and the same. She was always warm, generous, natured and cheerful - a good companion on and off screen." It was a theme expanded on

in typically blunt style by John Humphrys, the TV and radio presenter. "For most of us who appear on telly half a dozen times it does something to you and some of us get airs and graces, we become prima donnas. But that didn't happen to Jill," he said. "She was an entirely natural person, just a completely normal unaffected person and viewers spotted that." BBC director of television Alan Yentob said: "She was a natural television performer and outstanding journalist as well. She connected with audiences, she was an incredibly warm human being.

Chief Superintendent David Hatcher of Kent Police appeared for years alongside Ms Dando on the *Crimewatch UK*. He said: "Her involvement with *Crimewatch* was as much for the victims as for society, so it's unbelievable she should have died in this way. I know the whole police service will be galvanised to find her killer." Ms Dando was held in particularly high esteem in the West Country, where she did her journalistic training and continued to do charity work. The *Bristol Evening Post*, where her brother Nigel is the chief reporter, last night issued a commemorative edition.

Fellow *Sir O'Clock News* presenter Martyn Lewis was in the newsroom when the news broke. He described the "bewilderment, tears and quiet anger" among her colleagues. One of the most touching tributes, however, came from Andrew Harvey, who worked with Ms Dando on breakfast television. He last saw her at her engagement party in January. "Jill was obviously the star of the party but you never felt that," he said. "She spent the whole evening not waiting for people to come up and talk to her but rushing around taking photos of her friends so that she would have a memento," he said.

Plain-girl image was secret of her fame

JOHN BETJEMAN, the late poet laureate, would have had no difficulty explaining Jill Dando's appeal. She was precisely the kind of English girl about whom he enthused in his poems: cheerful, sporty and fresh-faced, with a hint of sexiness beneath the surface.

BY KATHY MARKS

column inches in the tabloid press, she appeared genuinely nonplussed by the attention. "I'm a very ordinary person," she said in an interview a couple of years ago. "I am still surprised when people come up to me in the street and put me on a pedestal. I don't see myself other than I have always been. It's nice to think that people see me as a mate. I think people would trust me with their key if they went away."

Ms Dando was one of television's most successful and best-paid personalities, but she came across as down-to-earth. She was famous yet ordinary; attractive but not glamorous; clever without being an intellectual. And all this was not an artificially cultivated image, according to those who knew her well. It was, and remained, the real Jill. This, perhaps, was the secret of her popularity, the reason why she endeared herself to men and women alike, why she was loved and admired by people who knew her only from afar as well as by friends, why she always topped opinion polls as the ideal female companion with whom to have dinner or go on holiday. If the late Diana, Princess of Wales was the fairytale princess to millions of strangers who mourned her as if she had been close family, Ms Dando was the wholesome girl-next-door to her legions of fans. She had the sensible haircut, the tomstone teeth, the jolly hockey sticks, no-nonsense manner. She made men, or many of them, go weak at the knees; women liked her because she was charming yet unpretentious. Two sentiments were repeated time after time yesterday by her shellshocked BBC colleagues. First, that Ms Dando remained the same unpretentious woman when the microphones were switched off and the cameras stopped recording. Second, that she had "no side" to her. What you saw was what you got. When her career took off and she made the transition from news presenter to "personality", with all the accompanying

The range of programmes that Ms Dando presented - including *Holiday*, *Crimewatch UK*, *Sir O'Clock News* and *Songs of Praise* - was testament to the universality of her appeal, as well as to her professional versatility. Ms Dando, a committed Christian, was born in Weston-super-Mare to 1961. Hers was a family with journalistic connections; her father, Jack, was a compositor on the local newspaper, the *Weston & Somerset Mercury*, and her older brother, Nigel, went on to become chief reporter at the *Bristol Evening Post*. Her mother, Jean, died of leukaemia when Jill was 24. Born with a hole in her heart and not given a clean bill of health until the age of 10, Ms Dando once recalled herself as "rather an ugly little girl with canine teeth, glasses and an extremely old-fashioned dress sense". At 17, she got herself some contact lenses and a perm. "Suddenly nobody recognised me," she said. "I couldn't believe it when the heart-throb at the church youth group asked me out." That sense of incredulity persisted when she became famous and learnt that she was a national sex symbol. "I'm not 'telly totty', so I don't know what the appeal is," she said in a recent interview. "I suppose I have that girl-next-door demeanour that some people like and which others find a turn-off. I don't think I'm all things to all men."



Jill Dando in January, shortly before announcing her engagement to Alan Farthing. She said their relationship 'changed the way I look on life'

Peter J Jordan

After a stint as a trainee reporter at the *Weston & Somerset Mercury*, Ms Dando moved to BBC Radio Devon, where she presented the breakfast programme. In 1988, she got her first job in television, as a presenter with BBC South-west, a traditional showcase for national talent. With a face and a voice that were perfect for television, she was quickly noticed and lured to London, where she presented a series of news programmes including *BBC Breakfast News*. She recently pulled out of the running to present the revamped *Sir O'Clock News*, after suggestions that she was not sufficiently heavyweight (the job went to Huw Edwards). One of the most poignant aspects of her violent and premature death is that she had finally found happiness in her personal life, to match her professional success. After a seven-year relationship with Bob Wheaton, a television executive, and a brief fling with Simon Bassil, a game warden whom she met while on

safari in Kenya, Ms Dando was introduced by a mutual friend last year to Alan Farthing, a consultant gynaecologist at a London hospital. The couple were photographed in a passionate embrace by paparazzi who tracked them on a skiing holiday in France. Three months ago, they announced that they planned to marry in September. Ms Dando said that the relationship had "changed the way I look on life"; she planned to scale back her television work after the wedding. It is axiomatic that one speaks well of the dead, particularly of a popular young woman brutally murdered outside her home. Yet, as one of Ms Dando's BBC colleagues said yesterday, you could not find anything had to say about her, were you to try. The word "nice", which went out of fashion long ago, was on everyone's lips as friends and colleagues struggled to come to terms with her death. Ms Dando was nice, she was ordinary, she was supremely likeable. She was, as her brother once put it, "an all-round good egg".

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'Jill was always surprised at how cruel people could be'

I LAST saw Jill on Tuesday. Actually she saw me first. Someone pinched my bottom. I turned round and it was Jill, grinning. We chatted about her wedding. Everything was great. She had this new antiques programme starting. She was so relieved to be stopping *Holiday*. I think it had taken her a lot of time to build up to resigning but, once she had made the decision, there were no regrets. She was in high spirits. She was so looking forward to having her life back. The trouble is it's very hard not to reach for the clichés, but they are all so valid. Jill was about to get married. It was the only gap in her life, the one thing missing, and it was about to be filled. That she should be the victim of such a crime is such an irony. She was so keen to work on *Crimewatch*. For a



NICK ROSS

long time she had said: "If ever there is a vacancy," I said there wasn't anyone we would look at if she was interested. She was so remarkably modest. If you went out with her she was always a head-turner. She was always rather surprised about that. Jill believed in *Crimewatch*. She wanted to work on it not just because she thought it

was a powerful piece of television but because she passionately believed in right and wrong. She was almost in tears on at least one occasion talking to victims. Her sense of surprise at how cruel people could be to each other never left her, even after three years. She would never, ever use black humour about a *Crimewatch* case. She would always treat each story with reverence. Jill never pretended to be a heavyweight intellectual. The most astonishing thing about her was that, for someone who was modest about her intellectual prowess, she actually had a lot more brains than people who pretended to be clever. She was quietly quite religious. Cliff Richard was one of her closest friends. She was never someone who was going to be howled over and change

what she fundamentally was simply because she was in this magic rectangle. She did tell me about a stalker, that she was having hassle. But there was never, ever any sense that she might be in mortal danger - or even physical danger. It was an irritant. There had certainly not been any form of serious confrontation. At least, I think Jill would have told me if there had been. At her engagement party she was almost diffident, as if she was surprised that someone had asked her to marry him. It was a modest announcement, really remarkably low-key. It was all very warm. She has such a wonderful family. I'm just appalled at what they must be going through now. The author was co-presenter of *Crimewatch* with Jill Dando

PANDORA

EMMANUEL PETIT (pictured) is a handful on the park - and he knows how to do a one-two off the pitch as well. Arsenal's Gallie star is moving to North London's chichi Primrose Hill. So the Gunners' midfield maestro sent a round robin to his neighbours to introduce himself, and say how much he was looking forward to meeting them. His letter also contained a plea that shows that, while you can take the man out of France, you can't completely take France out of the man. Did any of his new neighbours have, he wondered, a cuse (French for a cellar) he could use? Seems that Petit's extensive bottle collection's already outstripped the space available in his new home.

VULCAN FOUNDLING John Redwood is driving colleagues further and further around the bend with his increasingly idiosyncratic brand of Euroscepticism. He's been telling anyone who will listen - hey, where's everybody going? - how he favours Jaguars because we should buy British. Hold up, what are those wheels a spotter saw the Vulcan catching a ride in after a Commons debate this week? Could it really be a Mercedes? Ja.

TRAVEL BUSINESSES dealing with Turkey say bookings are plunging. Agents blame both the Balkans conflict and warnings by Kurdistan Workers' Party terrorists that the PKK will target tourists this year. Could this deadly duo be affecting Greece's inbound traffic too? Neh (Greek for yes), according to the trade book *Travel Weekly*. A client called an agent to cancel his holiday on the island of Kos. She asked him why. He replied: "Isn't it the capital of Kosovo?"

WESLEY CLARK, the supreme commander of Nato's Balkan bombing campaign, said this week: "We've only just begun." This echoes the Carpenters' identically titled 1970 hit. Next year the duo released "Hurting Each Other" - and, in what may prove a prescient forecast, in 1972 they followed through with "It's Going To Take Some Time".

GERALD CORBETT, the Railtrack boss, claims he plays a video of an especially grating by the Transport Select Committee to his teenage children "to make them feel sorry for me". And Pandora thought her domestic life was quirky...

Contact Pandora by e-mail: pandora@independent.co.uk

SO, PATRICIA Arquette and her spouse Nicolas Cage are heading for Split City. Coincidentally, Arquette stars in *Goodbye Lover* with Don Johnson, who is expected to get spliced with Kelley Phleger this week. Considering the 49-year-old star's well-publicised roistering, the bride should enjoy those cries of "lucky girl!" while she can.

"LIBERAL DEMOCRATS are so far in bed with Tony Blair that they're just a hideous lump under the duvet," says Tory hopeful Francis Maude on Lib-Labbery. Sure, Frankie, but at least the minority party is still in the game - which is more than can be said for your Fraculous mob just now.

MORE HORSETRADING in the race to succeed Paddy to lead the yellow party. At the launch of J Thorpe's memoirs this week, some liberal voices sounded disappointed that Nick Harvey (North Devon) had pulled up at the first fence. Not so, says Harvey's camp. Their man has just been "negotiating" with the dapper new frontrunner Menzies Campbell (Fife North East). Pandora hopes the Campbell-Harvey pow-wow is more productive than a recent meet between David Rendel (Newbury) and Simon Hughes (Bermondsey): Hughes's camp emerged saying Rendel would stand aside for their man - strangely, Rendel's handlers' version was the precise opposite.

DROP EVERYTHING Dept. "In other places, spring means daffodils, lambs and plowing [sic] the fields but in Slough it means that the Slough Jets are holding their annual 'all star' fundraising evening" - news release.

Vinnie Jones tackles sensitivity



DEBORAH ORR

Soon there will be no facet of human activity that this man hasn't dragged into disrepute

THERE'S BEEN a new development in the evolution of man, or at least in the evolution of men's magazines. Catering to the older new lad, *Lol* has been dreamed up by IPC as a kind of Boy Scout option for the overgrown Cubs at *Loaded*.

It's an odd magazine, in which men lose all track of time because they're constantly fretting about their girlfriends, and as such it seems spookily similar to the stuff in the heads of all the men who have ever struck you as perfectly decent, normal human beings. So, most of them really.

On the cover there's a thin veneer of male bravado, although there's no indication of what month or year it may be. Instead, there's a sly line reading "Success Money Women" and a topless example of priority number three with her arm across her breasts and none of her moles airbrushed out. There are no nipples either, either, except for male ones. While a couple of the coverlines blatantly cut to the chase and mention girlfriends - "Sex tips we tried on our own girlfriends" and "When girlfriends attack" - the one that grabs the attention is "She's an old

trollop: Vinnie Jones: Agony Uncle". Is there no beginning to Vinnie's talents, one asks yet again. Footballing, acting, writing and now counselling. Soon there will be no facet of human activity that this man hasn't dragged into disrepute. Needless to say, his advice is shocking.

Q: My girlfriend dumped me for another man and I'm struggling to

remain her friend. Am I wrong to get angry with her?

A: Turning your back on feelings is hard, so I won't tell you to just forget about her...

Q: My girlfriend wants to have kids but my sexy and slightly mad ex has recently come back on the scene. I'm torn.

A: ...You can't keep going off to see your ex just because it's easy to give her one...

See what I mean? Shockingly sensitive. But what about that trollop? A workmate girlfriend with whom our correspondent has fallen in love. She won't stop two-timing him with their boss, and he fears for their future happiness as well as both of their jobs. We women have a word for girls like that, too, Vinnie. And it's "trollop". There's no need to go bandying that offensive word "old" about, you know.

Although, in *Lol* (which should perhaps instead be titled *Earlier*), old is good.

Take a look at the heroes of the *Lol* lad, all of whom are showcased in issue one. Barry Sheene, Odd Job from *Goldfinger*, Harry Grout (the Guv'nor in *Porridge*),

James Caan (direct *Rollerball*), Clint Eastwood, Bruce Lee, David Bailey, Leonard Rossiter and James Hunt.

And the heroines? *Lol* requests that you ask your dad about them. Brigitte Bardot, Marilyn Monroe, Jane Fonda and Marianne Faithfull. Familiar faces from the old days, when men were men and women were women, and when sexual politics hadn't been invented.

Not that you entirely get the idea that the *Lol* lad longs for those days. He wishes instead that his girlfriend could be an entirely emancipated but utterly old-fashioned pin-up.

Since quite a number of women seem to want that too, there is likely to be no shortage of candidates for the readers' girlfriends section, in which ordinary women are photographed by top photographers and interviewed about what they want from their sexual partners. There's the progress of some kind here, I think, but I'm not sure what kind of progress it may be.

So what does it all mean? Who is the *Lol* lad, and will women like him? Well, stop me if you've heard this one before, but he's an eternal

child still mulling over the world that opened up to him when he was 10. But only because he knows there are things he still hasn't quite resolved from early adolescence, that really do need to be sorted out before he can move on.

In fact, there's a feature in the magazine in which one intrepid reporter goes out and spends a day doing the things he would have done at 15. Of course, he has a girlfriend, who gamely submits to the kind of seduction techniques at the author's 15-year-old command.

But while the writer enjoys his day as an adolescent, he realises that it is important for him to progress. Progressing means being successful and having some money, thus making it easier for a chap to settle down with his girlfriend. And while he isn't actually begging for baby-care tips, he knows that any sensible man will want children eventually, and that any sensible man will just do exactly what he's told to do when it comes to looking after them. Decent chaps like a laugh, love a girlfriend. Surely there's a market here - for the magazine and for the men.

Black and Asian Britons still can't trust the police



YASMIN ALIBHAI-BROWN

When police dogs are treated cruelly, officers are sent to prison. We obviously matter less

AN OBVIOUS point. In a democratic society, the police can function only by consent. Trust must underpin that consent, but for a good long time we, black and Asian Britons, have not had that basic faith in the British police force.

I lost mine when I went on an anti-National Front demonstration in Southall. It was St George's Day in April 1979, exactly 20 years ago. I was then a young, fiery woman who could run in platform-heel sandals, thank God. I went full of hate for the National Front and I left full of fear and loathing of the Metropolitan Police. Two thousand, seven hundred and fifty-six officers, several dogs and a helicopter invaded the tiny suburban locality. Young people were coshed and kicked in front of my eyes and Blair Peach, a young white teacher, was beaten to death by one officer from the frenzied Special Patrol Group. The officer was never identified or tried but 342 Southall Asians were, some of them charged with deliberately putting their heads in the way of police boots.

This would all be history were it not for the fact that the ugly tradition of protecting racist policemen is still very much with us. And in spite of the well-tuned contrition and statements of good intent which have been gushing out of the Met and other forces since the Lawrence Inquiry, I see little reason as yet to be optimistic.

I will change my mind when I see one, just one, high-profile sacking of a racially violent police officer or when I see real evidence that when police officers have failed properly to protect black and Asian citizens - such as Paul Condon, whose repeated failures have been white-washed in a daunting PR exercise with the collusion of those who should know better - they are held to account.

Take this week. Angry black and Asian peers of the realm have complained that the police have failed to take seriously the death threats that they have received from racist groups. The Met has also had to apologise for fabricating information about Roger Sylvester, a black man who died in police custody after being restrained. What good is the massive recruitment drive for more black and Asian officers and expensive anti-racist training if there is no attempt to root out racism - wilful, violent and at times murderous - within the forces?

A disproportionate number of black, Asian and Irish people die in custody following the use of force. A Home Office report on deaths in custody shows clear disparities between different racial and ethnic groups. According to Inquest, a campaign and support group working with the families of those who die in custody, between 1969 and 1996 there were 102 deaths of blacks in custody, of which 51 were in police cells. The Met record is not good. In 1996, for example, 35 per cent of

those who died in their custody were black or Asian. These were not all deaths caused by the police, of course. But many died as a result of neckholds, CS sprays and other forms of restraint.

Sir Paul has been running the ship since Joy Gardner was killed in front of her five-year-old son. Since then we have had the deaths of Shaji Lapite, Brian Douglas, Wayne Douglas, Ibrahim Sey and Roger Sylvester. Not one officer has ever been punished for any of these deaths. And if you want to see what this does to family members, go and listen to Joy Gardner's mother Myrna, as she addresses one public meeting after another. She is going mad with grief - as I would if I felt that the death of my child, caused by the custodians of law and order, meant nothing to this country.

At least we hear about the deaths. What we know barely anything about is what goes on in the back of police vans, on our streets and in police cells where black, Asian and Irish people are physically assaulted, threatened and terrorised by officers for no good reason.

The list of the known victims is long enough. Claudette Thompson was assaulted by a policeman who then bit his own finger and claimed that he had died in self-defence. The teeth marks did not fit, so £50,000 was paid out to keep things quiet. And £200,000 went to Danny Gosselin who was handcuffed and beaten by officers. Sir Paul Condon defended these policemen in court.

A significant number of black and Asian people use the civil claims complaints system against brutal policemen. The Met and others simply settle out of court with public funds. When police dogs are treated cruelly officers are tried and sent to prison. We obviously matter less.

What should worry us even more



Blair Peach's coffin is carried through Southall in 1979 PA

is the fact that the Police Complaints Authority and the Crown Prosecution Service have also failed to respond properly to this problem, even when Inquest juries return a verdict of unlawful killing. In the case of Shaji Lapite, who was killed in 1994, the verdict of unlawful killing was unanimous. Yet for five years neither the police nor the prosecution has chosen to take action against the perpetrators, despite a successful judicial review which challenged their inaction.

What is heartening, though, is that committed lawyers and others such as Deborah Cole, the director of Inquest, carry on fighting for justice in the face of this cross-institutional protection racket. Raju Bhatt and Fiona Murphy - both bright and passionate lawyers - and others, too, who represent many of the bereaved families, do what they do at great personal cost. Not only are they unlikely to become fat-cat lawyers, but they are also seen as a threat by many in the criminal justice system. The Police Federation and others brand them as "political

agitators" and "subversives", just as Rosemary Nelson was by the RUC in Northern Ireland. As Murphy says, the system is utterly bankrupt. We need to create a police force in which integrity is non-negotiable and where instead of falling over themselves to prevent action against racist police officers, there is a new morality that insists upon it.

We can trust the police only if this is seen to be done. And the police can do their job dealing with the real problems of crime within our communities only if they have this trust from the rest of us. Last Monday, Jack Straw had a meeting with bereaved families, Inquest and others. He is reflecting on whether we need a public inquiry. We do, but we need more than that, Jack. We need heads to roll before we black and Asian Britons can feel safe in the hands of the British police. This is a crucial issue for the whole of society. If this racism is allowed to go unpunished, other evils too will grow and the culture of an arrogant and unaccountable police force will affect all citizens in the end.

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The two styles of Muslim leadership

UPON THE answer to the question of who speaks for Muslims societies rest the concerns and thinking of many in the West, not only scholars and journalists but also policy-makers and political leaders. Yet there is a great deal of wishful thinking in providing the answer. In the West, it is well to remember that Western experts, on the eve of the Shah of Iran's fall in the late Seventies, were predicting Iran's emergence as a modern, secular force in Asian politics that would dominate the region for decades. There was no Islamic cloud on the horizon. Western analysts have therefore got it spectacularly wrong before. They need now to be more cautious, more analytic and more understanding about what is happening in the Muslim world today.

To many Western commentators and leaders the model they would like to see succeed in the Muslim world prejudices them in favour of that model and against the other ones. They overlook the serious shortcomings of their favourite group, which in turn explain the popularity of the opposed

models. The more they support one group, the greater the internal pressure in society to bolster and push up the other group. That is why the tussle becomes international and global from regional and local. When speaking of Muslim leadership let us not talk to the sophisticated leaders who have returned from Ivy League colleges or the Oxbridge ones to provide leadership to their societies. Let us talk to the ordinary man and woman in the Muslim world who must face the brunt of the injustice, oppression, collapse of law and order and escalating prices that have become the daily grind. To these ordinary Muslims, their first priorities are law and order; a feeling of safety and security at home, and a desire to see justice being done. Finding little succour in Western-style democracy they invariably fall back to the regional and local Islamic support being offered them. At least in Islam there is the hope of justice and law and order.

The two opposed models of leadership that clearly confront each other are: first, one based in the newly emerged religious groups, as in Afghanistan; and



PODIUM

AKBAR AHMED
From an address by the
Cambridge don to the
Royal Commonwealth
Society's 'Leadership in
Islam' conference

secondly, one found in the democratic societies such as Pakistan and Bangladesh. The first is rooted in the *Madrassah*, the village or religious school, and creates a student with a defined vision of the world. The aim is to propagate Islam and alter the world order to do so. Theirs is the rhetoric of confrontation and violence, of sacrifice and challenge. The other model, which has struggled to survive and has

shown resilience in spite of many hurdles, is based on a democratic order. Leaders are thrown up in elections and they then attempt to carry out their election promises during their tenure for the allocated period in office.

The relevance of M A Jinnah (the founder of Pakistan) to this model is great. It was not only his sense of abiding by the law but also his integrity which made it work. It allowed deflection of his critics, who said he was not an orthodox Muslim. Although they could challenge him for not being regular at prayer or dressing like a Muslim or failing to grow a beard, they could not challenge him on his integrity or high moral principles.

The style and content of this leadership are different. It is not only a question of superficial sartorial differences. There are substantial ideological and philosophical differences. One believes in being educated in the indigenous vernacular and using Arabic as the base language; the other in English and looking towards Westminster. One believes that society is God-ordained and it is the duty of every Muslim to

change it according to the laws of God; the other that democracy must prevail and the voice of the majority must be heard. One believes in wearing traditional clothes, living a simple life and remaining close to the roots of society; the other in aspiring to the style of leadership of other world democracies, which often involves vast expenses beyond what the local treasury can support.

One believes in honesty and integrity as a moral duty; the other talks of integrity and morality but is often seen to be violating them in behaviour. One believes that Islam and only Islam is the way of life; the other, while acknowledging Islam, also takes into account other religions and cultures and incorporates this into their constitutions.

One believes in challenging the West head on and targeting the Jews and Christians as the enemy; the other believes that we are related to a global system that requires some interdependence and some cultural interpenetration, and that the Muslim world can learn from, and absorb, the West.

After a month of bombing, how much of Serbia is 'degraded'?

DAMAGE

BY ROBERT FISK in Belgrade

WHO WILL pay for it all? When the Yugoslav war is over, who is going to foot the bill for the massive industrial destruction - including 36 factories and 19 oil refineries, gas facilities and power plants - which the Serbs list among the infrastructure attacked by Nato jets and missiles?

In Belgrade, the government says it is already compiling a list of destroyed factories, electrical and communications facilities it expects the Nato alliance to repair once the conflict is over. They include 32 road and rail bridges and 19 television stations and transmitters as well as widespread damage in civilian areas. Vuk Draskovic, the Deputy Prime Minister, estimated the cost at more than \$70bn (£45bn).

The Yugoslav army, television stations and the official Tanjug news agency put out regular daily accounts of Nato attacks on the country - usually leaving out any reference to military targets but always including damage to civilian property. Nato briefings highlight military targets, largely ignore civilian damage and regard major industrial targets as "dual-purpose" facilities which are of use to the military as well as civilians. Thus Nato claims that weapons were made at the heavily bombed Zastava car plant and the Sloboda home appliance factory at Cacak. Serbia says the attacks were a deliberate attempt to destroy the civilian infrastructure of the country and create mass unemployment. In some cases, factories, refineries and bridges have been attacked as many as seven times.

The Nato missile attack last week on the 24-storey building comprising commercial offices as well as three television stations and two political party headquarters in Belgrade has taken the jobs of 6,000 people. In Kragujevac, the factory raids are said to have cost 26,000 jobs among the local workforce. Six days after the Novi Sad city hall was hit, a bomb destroyed the central post office at Uzice. Hundreds of civilian homes have been badly damaged in Nato raids.

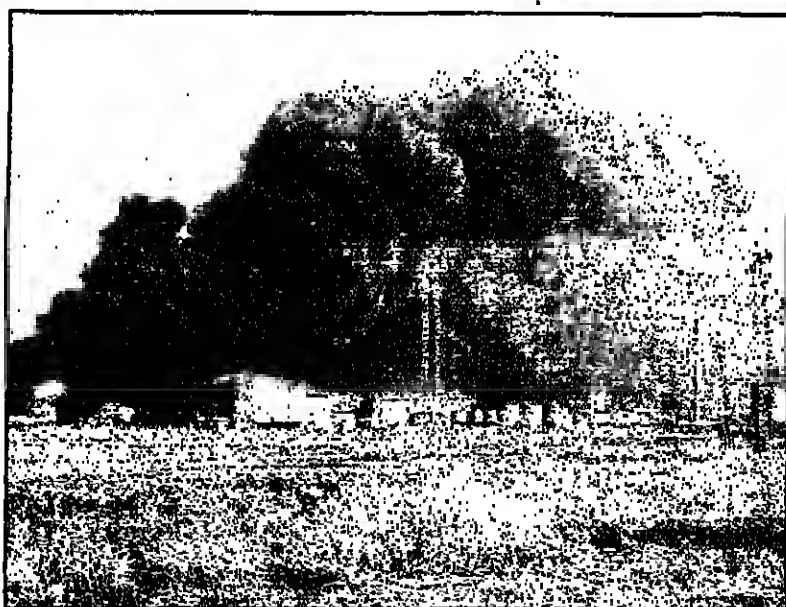
According to Yugoslav local authorities, recent - though largely unreported - attacks killed 10 Serb civilians at Djakovica in Kosovo, at Velika Dobrinje village (where a six-year-old girl, Arta Lugic, died) and at Doganovic in Kosovo where five brothers from the Kodza family, aged between

three and 15, were reported killed by a Nato cluster bomb. A 17-year-old youth, Dalibor Tasic, was killed in a Nato bombardment of Soderca village near Vranje. The conductor of the Yugoslav train destroyed in a Nato attack on 12 April has also died, bringing the estimated death toll to 28.

Six of the 17 Serbs who died in the Nato bombing of the Serbian television headquarters in Belgrade last week have been named as Milovan Jankovic, 59, a studio mechanic, Jelica Munitak, 28, a make-up artist, Dragan Tasic, 31, a technician, Slobodan Jontic, 44, a fitter, and two security guards, Dejan Markovic and Milan Joksimovic, both in their 40s.

The lowest Yugoslav estimate of civilian deaths is 500. No details of military casualties have been given.

HOW NATO'S BOMBS HAVE DESTROYED YUGOSLAVIA



Smoke rising from burning oil refinery tanks at Pancevo, 10 miles north of Belgrade, after a Nato air raid on Sunday. Right: A man rows his boat past a Belgrade river bridge destroyed in a Nato bombing raid at the weekend



TIMETABLE: DAYS 33, 34

Sunday 25 April
10.35pm: Air raid sirens sound in Belgrade.
11.55pm: Tanjug, the state news agency, says Nato warplanes fired six missiles and damaged the Slatina civilian airport, south-west of Pristina.

Monday 26 April
12.15am: The last remaining bridge in Novi Sad, the second largest Yugoslav city, knocked down.
12.30am: Explosions heard near the north-west Serbian town of Sombor.
12.40am: Fuel depot attacked near the central Serbian town of Valjevo. Several strong detonations heard in Sombor on the border with Hungary.
1.20am: Nato fires two missiles at the Grmija picnic grounds, north-east of Pristina. No damage estimate yet.
2.35am: The Serbian state television (RTS) stops broadcasting for three hours after playing the Yugoslav national anthem.
5.10am: All clear sounds in Belgrade.
6.30am: RTS resumes service.

11am: Senior Russian officials, including Viktor Chernomyrdin, the special envoy to the Balkans, meet to discuss the Kosovo crisis and prepare for talks with the US Deputy Secretary of State, Strobe Talbott.
11.50am: Air raid sirens sound in Novi Sad and Nis, Yugoslav army air-defence units are heard firing.

1pm: The head of the International Red Cross meets three US soldiers who have been held captive by Yugoslav forces for a month but can give no further information about their physical condition.
3pm: The last of 24 US Apache ground attack helicopters being deployed for offensive operations against Serb forces in Kosovo arrive in Albania.
5pm: The Libya state news agency JANA says President Slobodan Milosevic has sent an envoy to the Libyan leader, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, to ask for his help in resolving the Kosovo crisis.

All times BST

We are being cheated by 'It's like we're state lies, says Draskovic all in prison'

PROPAGANDA

BY ROBERT FISK

"SO LET'S tell people the truth... we are alone." With those nine words, Vuk Draskovic has written himself into the history of Nato's war against Yugoslavia, a roaring, harsh voice demanding reality and an end to propaganda, peace with honour and an end to lies. Nato misquoted him, of course. The Serbian regime responded in shocked silence. But Yugoslavia's Deputy Prime Minister and leader of the Serbian Renewal Party had struck.

Nato was not about to break apart, he told Serbs. It was growing stronger. Russia was not about to send squadrons of bombers to rescue Serbia. International public opinion had turned against Serbia after "horrible scenes of Albanian refugees and human suffering overwhelmed the Western world". Serbia must be ready to accept them back - and to accept a UN-led international "presence" in Kosovo.

Even for Yugoslav viewers, this was strong stuff. Was Mr Draskovic preparing himself to be the interlocutor valuable of Yugoslavia? The next president, perhaps?

from the United Nations Security Council for its bombardment.

"Our people have been cheated by claims from the start that it's only a question of time before Nato breaks apart - that divisions are growing between Europe and the United States," Mr Draskovic said.

"The aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has enabled Nato to dominate Europe and to homogenise Nato itself. So Nato is becoming stronger. Romania and Bulgaria will enter Nato... it may even become a kind of world military organisation. If Russia joins... then it will be the greatest army in the world. So it is important that the UN places this machinery under international control."

The Secretary of State for Defence, George Robertson, quoted only the first and third sentences of this remarkable statement. And Nato leaders did not mention Mr Draskovic's demand that Albanian home refugees should return with the help of world humanitarian organisations after "UN troops have come". But it was clear the Yugoslav Deputy Prime Minister was responding to the Nato summit in Washington, reminding his supporters that Yugoslavia was a founder member of the UN and that the member of the UN and the UN covenant was little different to the constitution of Yugoslavia. The Rambouillet and Paris



Draskovic: 'No more lies'

agreements had, in effect, provided for an independent Kosovo. That no longer applied.

But it was his implicit criticism of those around President Slobodan Milosevic that will have stung nationalist Serbs. "Many people talk about 'unity' and 'endurance'," he said. "But I believe the most important thing is to understand and get a grip on reality. The leaders of this country must clearly tell the people where we are and who we're with... Will Nato break apart? Some false prophets claim that in a couple of days we will celebrate victory over Nato. They must tell us what is the world public opinion... Let's not lie to the people any more that we are getting the Russian Sukhoi (bomber), or S-300s or S-400s or military

aid or that Russia is entering World War Three."

World opinion supported Yugoslavia in the first week of the Nato bombardment. Mr Draskovic said, but the sight of human suffering among the Albanian refugees had turned the world "almost entirely against us - but this is concealed here". Western countries were "mainly reasonable and moderate". Words were being misused. Why did the state media refer to "criminal Nato aggression" as if aggression could ever be anything but criminal?

"The other night, someone said [on television] that the three Nato FwTs should have been taken to Branko's Bridge [in Belgrade] and roasted there on a spit. I protested about this in the federal government - although I'm willing to defend the media's freedom. I demanded that these people be taken off the television because they shame Serbia and our tradition. Serbs do not roast people."

There can be little doubt that several leading figures in the regime will feel like roasting Mr Draskovic for his remarks. The leader of the democratic movement a couple of years ago, the Deputy Prime Minister is regarded by many as a turncoat for joining the Milosevic coalition. He didn't cry surrender yesterday. He didn't call for the overthrow of the regime. The "cracks" in the government to which Mr Robertson referred had been there all along. But his words just might provide a political path out of a war that neither side seems able to win.

ALBANIANS IN KOSOVO

BY EMMA DALY in Kukes

ONE OF the few Albanians left in Pristina told *The Independent* on a crackling telephone line yesterday of the terrifying conditions facing Kosovars who have failed to flee in time from the Serb police and paramilitaries who now infest the city. "I am alive," Mimoza told me. "The phone lines are cut to all Albanians, but I know how to work them."

"I don't know if we will leave. One night, some Serb gunmen came and told us all to leave, but a Serb neighbour said, 'You can stay, I will protect you'."

"So we did, but the family is scared. I have had no news of my boyfriend for three weeks. I went to his house one day, and it was a mess, totally destroyed. Nobody was left there."

Mimoza said the Albanians stranded in Pristina have to remain indoors most of the day and must speak Serbian if and when they venture out.

"We just stay inside as if we were in prison," she said. "Sometimes I go out to buy food, I wear a hat and dark glasses so no one can recognise me and I speak Serbian. We can only buy after the Serbs. If there is anything left, they sell it to Albanians. But you have to show your ID to buy anything, and when they see you are Albanian, they curse and say 'Go and ask Nato for bread'."

She said the Serbs were still trying to get Albanians to leave Kosovo by handing out instant

passports for a fee to be paid in German currency. "My sister blames my father for not doing enough to get us out of the city earlier," she said. "But now my father is going out to get a new passport for her. It seems unbelievable, but the authorities are making passports in 24 hours in Pristina's Grand Hotel. You just have to pay 483 dinars (80 marks or £28)."

"But it is very risky trying to leave for Albania. My cousin died recently on the way out. She was 14; she got sick and they buried her in the hills. 'You don't see people on the street. The police stop young people on the street when they see them; if I see two or three people walking and not speaking to each other, I know they are Albanian.'"

She added: "We have enough food for now. Café Corzo, where we used to go for a morning cappuccino, is working, but Tiffany's [a favourite restaurant of foreigners] has been burnt down; nothing is left."

Mimoza said that in spite of the terror wrought against the Albanians in Nato's name, she and her family still supported the bombing campaign. "When my youngest sister sees TV reports of Kosovo children living in the mud in the refugee camps in Albania, she says, 'Lucky you, at least you are not in Kosovo'. And when she hears bombs drop, she shouts, 'Do it more, do it more!'"

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Call for ban on all neo-Nazi groups after nail bombings

ANTI-RACIST campaigners and community leaders called for neo-Nazi groups such as Combat 18 to be banned yesterday in response to the two bomb attacks on Brixton and Brick Lane in London.

Civil rights activists said the Government's plan to reform the 1967 Race Relations Act after the Lawrence report does not go far enough. They called for immediate action to make membership of far-right groups illegal.

Combat 18 has claimed responsibility for the two bombings, which injured 45 people. Kumar Murshid, chairman of the National Assembly Against Racism, said: "Most people would be very surprised to know that Combat 18 and other groups like that are not illegal. They clearly exist to incite violence and they should be banned."

The call came as it was revealed that a group called the White Wolves, suspected of the bombings and said to be an off-

BY KIM SENGUPTA

shoot of Combat 18, has sent death threats to Jewish community leaders in Manchester. Black, Asian and Jewish public figures and organisations received such threats before the Brixton attack.

A spokesman for the Jewish Community Security Trust in Manchester said: "The risk has to be taken seriously. We are liaising with the police and other ethnic minority communities in the city... a pattern is emerging, first it was the blacks, then Asians and the Jews could be the next on the list."

Yesterday the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, told the Commons that hunting the racist bombers was the police's number one task. "Whilst the perpetrators of this violence remain at large there is plainly a risk that they may strike again. The police are pursuing the investigations of these bombings and protection of the public with the utmost vigour."



A shopkeeper reaching up to remove a six-inch nail from his shopfront in Brick Lane yesterday

But Bangladeshi community leaders accused the police of failing to provide adequate protection and said the force had been negligent in closing Brick Lane's police station on Saturday afternoon. They also accused the police of being slow to arrive at the blast scene.

Shohique Choudhury, chairman of the Bangladeshi Welfare Association, said: "The Brick Lane police station is situated

opposite where the bomb went off and in our opinion, the local police have been negligent in their endeavours to protect the local community even though they knew that a spiteful, racially motivated campaign was in the midst of London. Contrary to first reports, the police were not at the scene of the crime immediately; they came some time afterwards."

was open every third Saturday, because past experience had shown that it was under-used. Superintendent Rose Fitzpatrick of Bethnal Green police said: "We understand the concern about the vulnerability of the community in this part of London. We had increased police patrols before this event and we have increased them since the event."

Yesterday, police confirmed they were called on Saturday evening by the landlord of The Alma pub, in Spelman Street, near Brick Lane, after five white men came in to "gloat" about the bombing and make racist comments.

Stephen Kane, 52, said: "They were strangers, there was no reason for them to be there, and they were seriously abusive. I asked the police to come and help and they were happy to do so."

The White Wolves have printed pamphlets advocating attacks on ethnic minorities to provoke a backlash against the

white population. This, the group claims, will lead to the far-right's hoped-for race war. Black, Asian and Jewish communities across Britain, in the meantime, are preparing their defences after police warnings that further attacks are likely. Suresh Grover, of the Southall Monitoring Group, said volunteers would patrol the west London suburb, which has a large Punjabi population.

Mr Grover added that moves were under way to organise similar operations outside London in areas thought to be vulnerable to racist attacks.

Muhammad Ali, marketing manager of the Black Development Agency in Bristol, said: "We are all appalled by what has happened in London. We are anxious, we need to know what is going on."

Jewish community groups said they would link with Asian and black organisations to exchange information and work out strategies to protect themselves from neo-fascists.

Police body's anti-racism 'insensitive'

BLACK POLICE officers reacted with fury yesterday to an "inappropriate and insensitive" anti-racist poster campaign launched by the Police Federation.

The Black Police Association boycotted the launch and said the campaign, which deliberately uses shock tactics, could backfire by offending many black and Asian people.

The posters, to be displayed at police stations, show images of black and Asian people with racially stereotypical slogans. One shows a black man with the question: "Been Mugged?" Underneath the picture is the advice: "Tell him - he's a police officer". Another reads: "What do you call a black man in a BMW?" A third poster shows an Asian woman with the slogan: "Open All Hours?". A smaller caption reads: "The Police Service has to be..."

The association also attacked the timing of the initiative, which comes amid a national race terror campaign and less than two months after the Stephen Lawrence inquiry report concluded that the police service was "institutionally racist". Inspector Paul Wilson, the chairman, said: "We have not got a problem with the message. It's the messenger. The Police Federation has a very poor image with the black

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

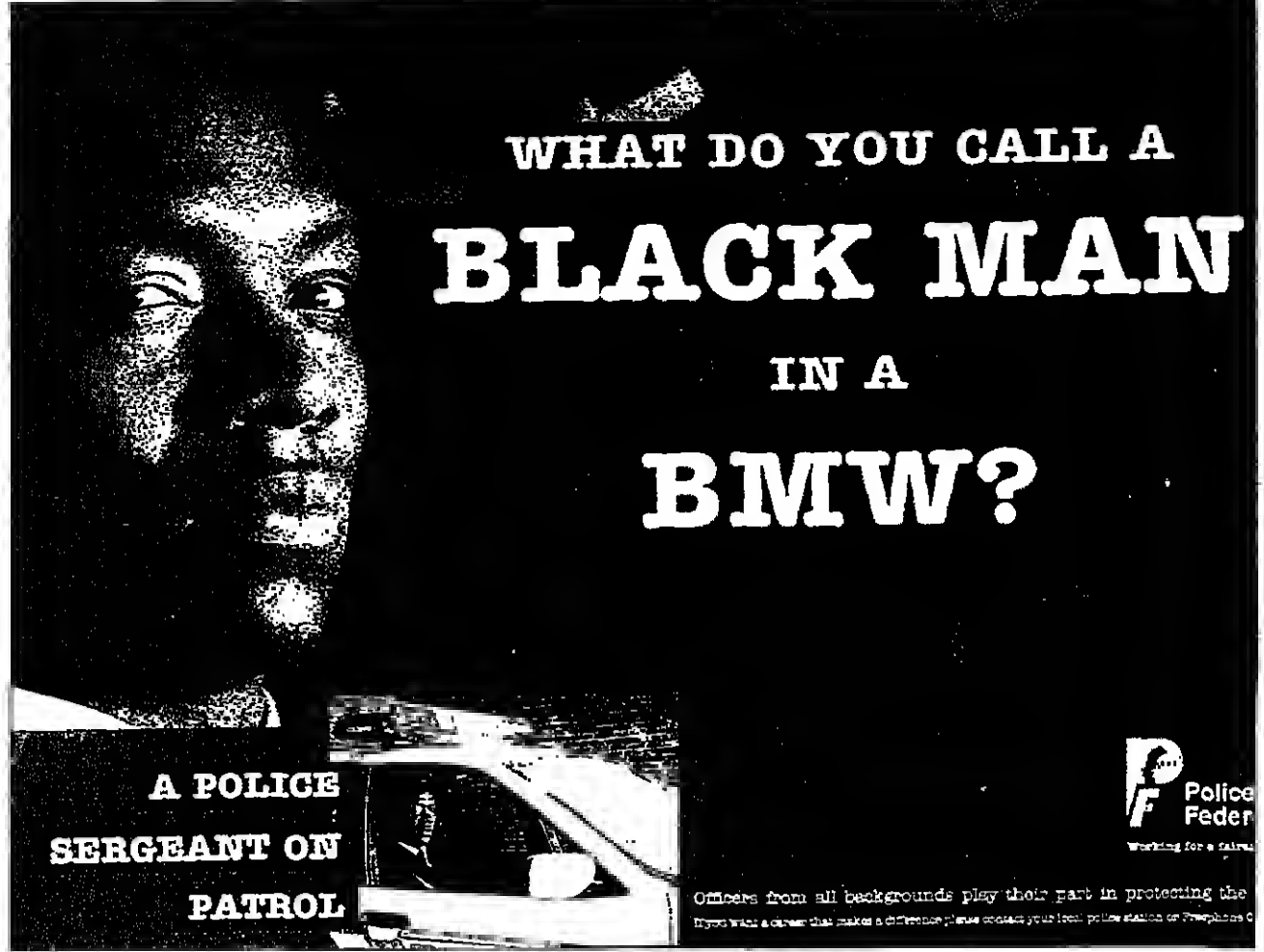
community. During the Stephen Lawrence inquiry it was most intransigent, defensive and adversarial."

Inspector Wilson added: "Do we really need a poster campaign depicting racial stereotypes produced by all people, the Police Federation?"

But speaking at the launch of the £20,000 campaign, the Police Federation's chairman, Fred Broughton, described the initiative as "a ground-breaking step". He said that the police service was "confused and divided" over race relations. The posters would challenge passive racism and reassure ethnic minority communities.

"Our reputation has suffered, we must restore confidence," he said. "Black and Asian police officers and minority communities need reassurance. They remain to be convinced that we mean what we say about fairness."

Mr Broughton said he realised that the posters would be seen as "provocative" and accepted they may not be well received by all black and Asian people. "Whatever you think of them, like them or loathe them, they will generate interest, generate controversy and generate discussion," he said.



One of the Police Federation posters. Black officers have 'no problem with the message. It's the messenger'

Mr Broughton said the federation had informed black and Asian community leaders of the content of the campaign and been given "no negative vibes".

The four people featured in the posters are not police officers but a professional basketball player, a dancer, an actor and a medical student. Real black officers were not used in the pictures because such a high-profile campaign could limit their chances of working

undercover later in their careers, Mr Broughton said. He said he was "disappointed" that the association had declined an invitation to attend the launch but said the two organisations had been holding regular talks in the past six months on race issues.

Less than 2 per cent of the 125,000 police officers who are in the federation come from minority communities. Bob Purkiss, chairman of the

legal committee of the Commission for Racial Equality, said he understood the association's concerns but still welcomed the campaign. "The 'do nothing' option was not on the table," he said. "[The Police Federation] are trying to address their collective failure in the past." Mr Purkiss said that to have delayed the campaign launch because of the nail bombings in would have sent "the wrong message".

The Chief Constable of Merseyside, Norman Bettison, admitted yesterday that his force was "institutionally racist" after spending six months gathering evidence on bigotry in the ranks.

Mr Bettison said a new task force had been set up to re-investigate more than 300 cases in which race had been an issue and he hinted that a number of officers could be sacked for their racist views.

IN BRIEF

School union splits over Woodhead

THE NATIONAL Association of Head Teachers has split over its decision to press for a criminal prosecution of Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, for allegedly lying over a relationship with a young woman. More than 30 members have quit to set up a rival union.

Hillsborough hearing adjourned

COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS against former Chief Superintendent David Duckenfield and former Superintendent Bernard Murray, facing private prosecutions over the Hillsborough disaster, were adjourned by Leeds magistrates yesterday until July.

Anorexia can lead to incontinence

ANOREXIA CAN trigger incontinence, according to a study published yesterday. Researchers found that two-thirds of women with anorexia nervosa in two London hospitals also had unstable bladders, said the report in the British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Woman's jaw regrown inside lip

A WOMAN'S shattered jaw has been regrown in a pioneering operation. The 45-year-old's mouth was rebuilt at a Wakefield hospital by growing new bone inside her bottom lip. Her jaw was shattered in a car crash in 1977.

Pop-star apologises to Pope

SINEAD O'CONNOR, pop star turned priest, apologised yesterday for once ripping up a portrait of the Pope. The singer became Mother Bernadette Mary at a ceremony held by the breakaway Latin Tridentine church last week.

DAVID AARONOVITCH

If China's police cannot prevent nail bombs, how can our officers do better?

IN THE TUESDAY REVIEW PAGE 3

Dual vaccine holds hope for fight against HIV

SCIENTISTS STUDYING Aids believe they have made a breakthrough in the 10-year quest to find a vaccine against HIV.

However, the development was marred by a discovery by a second team of researchers, who found that HIV can lie dormant for a lifetime.

A team led by Harriet Robinson, chief of microbiology at Yerkes Regional Primate Center in Atlanta, Georgia, found that a combination of two types of vaccine can protect monkeys against HIV.

Although the vaccine does not protect the monkeys against infection - the aim of conventional immunisation - it ap-

pears to limit the virus's ability to replicate within the body.

"This holds promise for the development of a vaccine capable of seriously reducing viral replication and thus stemming the transmission of Aids," Dr Robinson said.

The three-year research project experimented with several types of vaccines and two different ways of delivering them to the immune system.

Dr Robinson found the most successful approach was first to "prime" the immune system with a vaccine based on the ge-

netic material of a hybrid virus created from HIV and SIV, the simian immunodeficiency virus.

The next stage was to inject a vaccine made from incorporating parts of the hybrid virus into a pox virus, which can invade the monkey's cells but does not proliferate.

Results of the study, published in the journal Nature Medicine, show that the vaccine successfully limited the replication of the virus when it was injected three times over a 62-week period.

The scientists were unable to detect the virus in the blood of vaccinated animals, in contrast to unvaccinated monkeys.

Although the findings are promising for vaccine development, other research indicates that it will be practically impossible to eliminate HIV totally from an infected person.

Scientists from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore have found that HIV can evade anti-Aids drugs by hiding in a dormant state for years within cells of the immune system.

"This doesn't mean that a cure for HIV is impossible, but it is an obstacle. And it emphasises that patients need to stay on their medication, possibly for the rest of their lives," said Robert Siliciano, a senior Aids researcher at Johns Hopkins.

Bordeaux prolongs active life

DRINKERS KEEN to ensure they will be enjoying their favourite Châteaux into old age should select wines made from the Cabernet Sauvignon grape, a heart expert advises today.

Jean Paul Broustet, of Hart-Leveque Hospital in the Bordeaux region of France, says in the journal Heart that the Cabernet Sauvignon grape has particularly large amounts of the anti-oxidant resveratrol,

which alters the balance between "good" and "bad" cholesterol in the blood, helping to prevent heart attacks.

Even when diluted 100 times, red wine is still a more powerful anti-oxidant than is vitamin E. This might account for the "French paradox" - that although Mediterranean popu-

lations have high-fat diets, they suffer low rates of heart disease.

The longer the grapes stay on the stem, the higher the concentration of tannins - bitter agents in the wine. Tannins, combined with alcohol, reduce the "stickiness" of the blood cells known as platelets, thus lowering the risk of clots forming in the blood vessels.

One study, which involved feeding dogs Châteaufort du

Pape and grape juice, showed that the wine was far more effective at reducing constrictions in blood-flow caused by a sudden aggregation of platelets.

Dr Broustet suggests, however, that the beneficial effects of a good red wine have more to do with taste and bouquet - and the good company enjoyed while drinking. He blames problems such as cirrhosis of the liver on over-indulgence.

London	3 nights	North of England	3 nights
London - Kensington	£141	Bolton (The Beaumont)	£93
London - Regent's Park	£152	Carlisle	£95
London - Bloomsbury	£127	Chester	£110
London - Hampstead	£127	Grimby	£89
London - Heathrow	£103	Haydock	£106
London - Gatwick	£114	Hull	£86
		Hull Marina	£114
		Lancaster	£110
		Leeds/Bradford	£103
		Leeds/Brighton	£95
		Leeds/Selly	£86
		Leeds (The Queen's)	£124
		Liverpool (The Gladstone)	£85
		Manchester	£95
		Manchester Airport	£114
		Newcastle-upon-Tyne	£95
		Preston	£95
		Sheffield	£93
		Teesside	£89
		Wakefield	£86
		Warrington/Runcorn	£91
		Washington	£86
		York	£101
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		Brentwood	£112
		Cambridge	£110
		Colchester	£99
		Epping	£97
		Ipswich	£95
		Norwich	£99
		Peterborough	£95
		Stevenage	£86
		Central England	3 nights
		Aylesbury	£103
		Birmingham	£86
		Birmingham Airport	£93
		Birmingham City	£103
		Coventry	£91
		Derby/Burton	£99
		Gloucester	£105
		High Wycombe	£105
		Leicester	£85
		Lincoln	£106
		Milton Keynes	£93
		Nottingham City	£114
		Nottingham/Derby	£101
		Rugby/Northampton	£95
		Stoke-on-Trent	£97
		Walsall (The Boundary)	£86
		Scotland, Ireland and Wales	3 nights
		Aberdeen	£86
		Belfast	£76
		Cardiff	£93
		Cardiff City	£97
		Dublin Airport (IRE)	£114
		Edinburgh	£125
		Glasgow Airport	£95
		Glasgow City	£97
		Glasgow (Erskine Bridge)	£101
		Swansea	£103

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IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

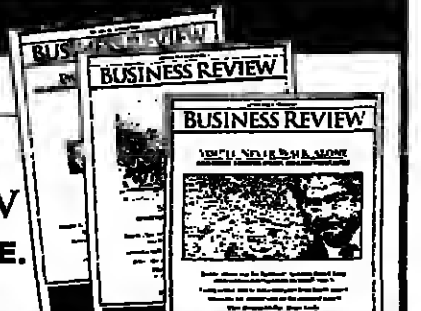
'People say you're a misogynist.
How do you plead?'

DAVID BAILEY ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH McRAE, IAN JACK, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, SUSANNAH FRANKEL, BRIAN Viner, PHILIP HENSHER, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, DEBORAH ORR, THOMAS SLICLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

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BUSINESS REVIEW
ABOUT BUSINESS PEOPLE.
FOR BUSINESS PEOPLE



Scores of trawlers 'at risk of sinking'

DOZENS of trawlers fishing around Britain's coast are inherently dangerous and receive safety approval by government inspectors without adequate checks on their stability, according to a confidential accident report into the deaths of four trawlermen.

Since 1990, 17 beam trawlers have sunk with the loss of 29 lives. Official statistics show that this type of trawler is four times more likely to sink than other types of fishing vessel.

The British fishing fleet has more than 130 "beamer", which have two large derricks (a type of crane), enabling crew to fish on both sides of the boat simultaneously. They are highly profitable: in the port of Newlyn in Cornwall they account for two-thirds of the catch although they represent only a small proportion of the local fleet.

A damning report by the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) into the loss of the *Margaretha Maria*, a Dutch-built vessel from Newlyn that went down in November 1997 with the loss of four crew, raises serious concerns about safety.

The report, which has been obtained for tonight's *Channel*

By PAUL LASHMAR

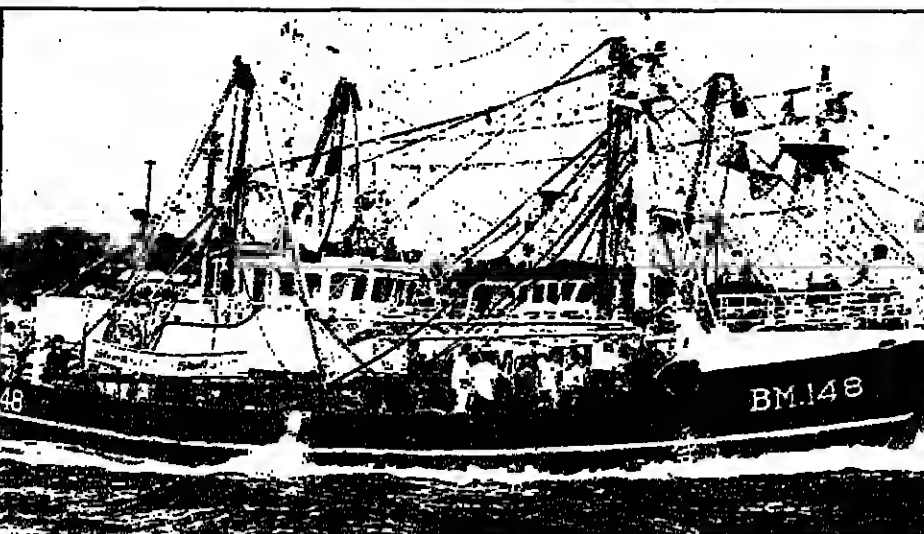
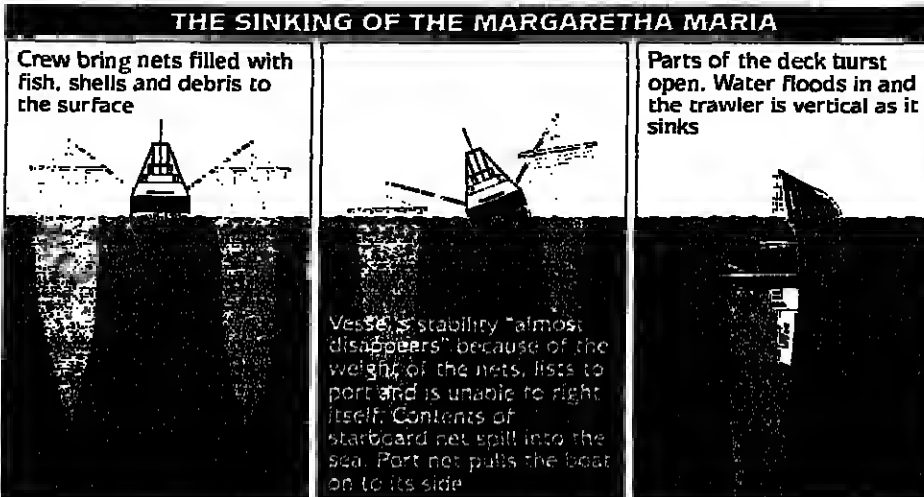
4 News, says: "This inquiry has revealed that the stability of beam trawlers may be dramatically reduced by normal operational movements of derricks and fishing gear."

The trawler "frequently and legitimately operated with a standard of sea-going stability substantially less than required of other types of fishing vessel".

The report continues: "With lower stability standards, safety would have been compromised", and adds that the instability of the vessel was so serious "that other vessels may be affected by a similar amount".

Fishermen have been aware that beamers can be unstable at the key moments when the derricks raise the nets filled with fish, but they rely on their skill to prevent accidents.

The report, to be published in the summer, says that the *Margaretha Maria* probably sank because of a large weight of debris in her raised nets, which made her unstable. Shelter doors on deck were left open but while this would have made her sink more quickly, it would not have caused the initial capsizing.



A report from the Marine Accident Investigation Branch blames the inherent instability of beam trawlers for the sinking of the *Margaretha Maria*, left. Moira Todd, (right) with John and Kerry Todd, campaigned tirelessly for an investigation into the accident in which her husband, son and the boat's two other crew were drowned

The board says that urgent stability tests should be carried out on a range of beamers as they are fishing. Government inspectors from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) currently certify beam trawlers for stability without testing how they react under real working conditions.

Tonight's *Channel 4 News* reveals that beam trawlers are four times more likely to sink than other fishing vessels. In 1997, 134 of the 7,779 registered

fishing boats were beam trawlers. Since 1990 a total of 253 fishing vessels have been lost, of which 17 were beam trawlers.

The *Margaretha Maria* left Newlyn harbour on a fine November afternoon with four men on board, including John Todd and his son Kerry, 24. Conditions were calm and the crew was due to return two days later. But the trawler disappeared without trace.

Three months later, the body of the skipper, Robbie Holmes,

was found, but the other three men are thought to lie with the trawler on the ocean bed.

Their relatives mounted a campaign for an investigation into the safety of beam trawlers. The board's report states that MCA inspectors do not test beam trawlers' stability when the boats are at their most vulnerable - raising tons of fish in two nets using derricks on either side of the boat.

Moira Todd blames the agency for the loss of her husband and son. She said: "The

MCA are charged with carrying out stability tests, sending these boats to sea in a safe condition, and they are not doing it. It's like doing an MOT test in a car without testing the brakes or testing that the wheels are on."

"The three wives were determined to find out the truth. Over the past 18 months we've put constant pressure on the MAIB."

She remembered the last time she saw her husband and son: "It was a fine Tuesday afternoon, about 4.30pm. They wouldn't have gone out if the weather had been bad because they were always careful, especially with that boat."

"They were supposed to have left a day earlier but they were delayed because of some problem - there were always problems with the boat."

"Kerry had been fishing for two years after he left university, to save up enough money

to go backpacking. The accident happened six weeks after he got back. He was making a bit of money before deciding what direction his life should take."

The body of Mr Holmes was spotted in fishing grounds 50 miles south-west of Lizard Point in February last year. A naval ship located the wreck of the *Margaretha Maria* on the seabed about five miles from where Mr Holmes' body was discovered.

Scientists use living cells to create 'bionic' kidney

SCIENTISTS HAVE come a step closer to creating the first "bionic" organs by growing living kidney cells inside synthetic tubes to filter the blood of laboratory animals suffering from renal failure.

It is the first artificial kidney to use living tissue to mimic the functions of real organs and its development could alleviate the chronic shortage of kidneys for transplant operations. Scientists grew the cells taken from a pig's kidney on the inside surfaces of the hollow fibres used in kidney dialysis machines, which filter blood of toxic substances.

The cells stuck to the fibre - which is about as thick as a human hair - and proliferated to form a continuous lining of living material through which the filtered blood flowed. The research team intends to test

By STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

the device on the first human patients later this year. The experiment demonstrated that the cultured kidney cells secrete vital substances into the filtered blood of the animals. These compounds are lacking when a kidney patient undergoes conventional dialysis treatment, a shortcoming that is thought to increase the risk of severe side-effects.

Medical researchers believe the study marks an important breakthrough in the attempts to find an alternative to kidney dialysis, which fails to save the lives of more than half the patients who need the treatment after suffering from acute renal failure. They also hope to develop the technique further to manufacture fully functioning

kidneys for transplant operations by growing living cells on a man-made "scaffold" designed to hold together the tissues. David Humes, who led the team at the University of Michigan, has applied to the US Food and Drug Administration for clinical trials in humans, which are expected to start this autumn. "The project falls into a larger framework of research aimed at making bio-artificial kidneys that could be implanted into patients," said Dan Cutler, a spokesman for Dr Humes' laboratory.

The team reports in next month's issue of the journal *Nature Biotechnology* that the cells were able to secrete vital substances back into the blood of a dog suffering from acute renal failure, something that was not possible with conventional kidney dialysis. "What is

new and different is that Dr Humes has demonstrated that he can grow these cells and that they can perform the function of releasing metabolites (biological substances) as they would in a natural situation," Mr Cutler said. Although the living kidney cells were grown in a kidney dialysis machine outside the body, the scientists hope to be able to culture them in a kidney-sized artificial organ, which could then be transplanted permanently into a patient with renal failure.

Because the cells were encapsulated inside hollow fibres they were protected against attack from the body's immune defences, making organ rejection less likely. Clark Colton, professor of chemical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said it was an important development.

Channel 5 play ratings joker by reviving 'It's A Knockout'

By PAUL MCCANN
Media News Editor

THE DAYS when helpless, wheezing laughter and saturated people dressed as snails were the biggest thing on television are long gone. But Channel 5 is hoping that, 17 years on, the country is still silly enough to enjoy *It's A Knockout*.

Stuart Hall is to return to the screen this autumn as the maniacal presenter of television's most chaotic game show. Channel 5 announced at the Montreux Television Festival that it would be pitting everyone from glee clubs to teams of accountants against each other in a series of silly challenges, which will remain largely unchanged from the show's heyday in the Seventies.



Stuart Hall in an old episode of 'It's A Knockout'

For those too young to remember, *It's A Knockout* was an outdoor game show that entailed adults in preposterous costumes taking part in elaborate relay races. At its peak, the show pulled in more than 18 million viewers and if Channel

5 can get a fraction of that, it will be worth the embarrassment of disinterring a programme that gives the lie to the notion that British television has dumbed down in recent years.

Channel 5 is to keep the show domestic for a year before

trying to revive that emblem of pan-European co-operation, *Jour Sans Frontières*. Most aspects of the old programme will be resurrected, including "the joker", which doubles the score on a chosen event - an updated version of the Ronnie Hazellhurst-penned theme tune and lots of water.

The producers of the show are undaunted by its past: "We will remain faithful to the ethos of the programme," said Robin Greene, of the production company Ronin, which has bought the rights to the show from Mr Hall. "We will update it and give it a more contemporary feel, but we certainly don't want to make it too funky and young. We want all the family to tune in."

Leading article.
Review: page 3

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been "tasked" to look into the matter and would be reporting back soon—presumably when everyone's attention has moved elsewhere. In the meantime MPs indulged themselves by asking it again and again—either because they enjoyed the apocalyptic frisson it delivers or because they liked embarrassing Mr Blair. His final appearance was from Alice Mahon, who delivered it in tones that suggested she alone had spotted a crucial difficulty. Mr Blair let his exasperation show—stating the obvious may be a Parliamentary privilege but even here there are limits to the number of times you can do it.

Francis Maude, the shadow chancellor, confirmed that the Conservative Party would stick to Labour's £40bn spending increase for health and education over the next three years if it won a general election during that period. He denied that the leadership had performed a U-turn.

His supporters claim that, as a Bath MP, he has a better chance of winning over the party's 25,000 members in the South-west.

Ministers and Lord
Chancellor's Department.
Finance Bill, committee.
Short debate on
passenger rail
services in Wansbeck,
Northumberland.
Lords, 2.30pm:
House of Lords Bill,
committee. Parliamentary
elections (Northern Ireland,
renewal).

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SNP winning argument but losing support

Planet Holyrood, Review Front

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APR 1999

'Wife of Chinese mole was FBI spy'

A SPY scandal that threatened to convulse the United States and set back US relations with China for many years took a new turn yesterday with a claim that the wife of the chief suspect was in the pay of the FBI.

When a Taiwan-born scientist, Wen Ho Lee, was dismissed from his job at the Los Alamos National Laboratory last month on suspicion of spying for China, awkward questions were raised about his wife, Sylvia.

Among Mrs Lee's responsibilities were arranging tours of

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

Mrs Lee's trips to China were raised publicly last month when her husband, Wen Ho Lee, was named as the chief suspect in the alleged theft of nuclear secrets from Los Alamos, also in the Eighties. A New York Times investigation found evidence that China probably stole several secret weapons blueprints (including ones for a miniaturised nuclear warhead) from the laboratory and the thefts went unremarked for a decade until China started to produce weapons of a design uncannily similar to that of US weapons.

Government officials, intelligence officers, defence scientists and administrators were questioned and a political storm gathered, which would have caused more damage to the Clinton administration if Kosovo had not squeezed it from the headlines. The Chinese denied nuclear spying as the Chinese Prime Minister, Zhu Rongji made an official visit to Washington.

Investigators found Wen Ho Lee - who had worked at Los Alamos for 20 years - had been suspected before, but retained his top-level security clearance. Last month, he failed a lie-detector test and was said to have stonewalled FBI questions. He was dismissed. But the FBI had insufficient evidence to prosecute.

Few details of the Lee's existence suggested a lifetime of spying. They lived in a respectable suburb and neighbours called them quiet and decent. Colleagues were amazed that Wen Ho Lee could have been a spy. "He is either a very, very good actor, or he's not your man," one said.



The sign of peace as 100,000 attend a memorial service for the victims of Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado

Denver gunmen set out to kill 500 pupils, then hijack a plane

BY ANDREW GUNBEL

THE TWO teenage killers who rampaged through their suburban high school in Colorado a week ago intended to kill at least 500 students, and fantasised about blazing their way through the neighbourhood, hijacking a plane and crashing it on New York City, according to the detailed diary of their plans seized by investigators.

John Stone, the Jefferson County Sheriff, told the Denver Post and NBC's Dateline programme that only a mixture of luck, quick thinking by teachers and students, and the in-

tervention of SWAT teams who put the attackers on the defensive prevented a far greater calamity in the Denver suburb of Littleton. In the end, 15 people died, including the gunmen, and 23 were wounded seriously enough to be kept in hospital.

A large propane bomb planted in the cafeteria kitchen at Columbine High School by Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold was meant to go off at the peak of the school lunch hour and start

a blaze strong enough to burn down the school. It is not clear why the bomb, made from a barbecue-type propane canister and a petrol can packed in broken glass, ball-bearings and nails, did not detonate as planned. "Once they burnt the school down, then they were just going to start ravaging the neighborhood, killing as many people as they could," Sheriff Stone said.

The diary lists details of bomb-making and gun purchases and outlines plans for the final assault. It is not clear

how much of the later stages of their scheme, such as the plane hijacking, was realistic and how much fantasy, but Harris and Klebold certainly did not expect to survive.

Sheriff Stone said an 18-year-old female friend of Klebold was being investigated on suspicion of providing a gun used in the attack, timed to coincide with Hiller's birthday. He did not name her and investigators are still trying to establish if she knew why Klebold wanted the weapon. Unconfirmed reports say another

friend of the two boys might be the subject of investigation and has retained a lawyer.

The sheriff also blamed the parents of the pair for failing to suspect what the boys had been planning. There was a sawn-off shotgun piece in the bedroom of one boy, and explosives-making equipment elsewhere in the house.

Sheriff Stone said there was not enough evidence to press charges of criminal negligence against the parents, but he expected there would be "a raft" of civil lawsuits.

Fury at ban on Down's skater

BY FRANCES KENNEDY
in Rome

A DECISION to exclude a teenage boy from competitive figure skating because he suffers from Down's syndrome has provoked an outcry in Italy.

Mauro Muscas, aged 17, from Sardinia, finished third in the regional rollerskating championships earlier this month, and his club wanted him to continue in qualifiers for the national championship. But despite doctors' certificates proving he is physically up to the task, Mauro has been told he can no longer take part in any competitive skating events because of his intellectual disability.

The current law prohibits mentally disabled people from practising competitive sport except in events reserved for athletes with handicaps. Mauro, who is in his third year of high school in Cagliari, is a natural sportsman. He first took up skating at the age of nine, and spends every spare moment at the rink. The news that he could not go to the national championships has left him perplexed and sad.

Mauro's mother, Antonietta, vowed she would fight for her son's right to fair treatment. "If this is the law, it can be changed. Mauro was penalised at birth by having an extra chromosome but he should not be further discriminated against," she said.

"Thanks to sport Mauro's condition has improved tremendously and when he skates he forgets that he has Down's syndrome. Until now he has always measured himself against other 'normal' sportsmen so why should that change just because he is having success?"

The 1978 law appears to have been passed with the aim of protecting people with mental handicaps from the potential psychological hazards of competitive sport.

Italy's Health Minister, Rosy Bindi, has promised to review the legislation to remove any aspects that could be anachronistic or discriminatory against those with disabilities.



Wen Ho Lee: Dismissed

the top-secret laboratories for visiting Chinese delegations. She was also said to have made several trips to conferences in China, one with her husband, which seemed to be outside her competence.

But Newsweek magazine says Mrs Lee was just doing her job - being paid by the FBI to help to keep track of visiting Chinese scientists and compile profiles. The magazine said in the Eighties the FBI was thought she might have been recruited by the Chinese to spy on her boss at Los Alamos, a laser specialist, but decided she was loyal and dropped the inquiry.

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Colla prop

Peking outlaw behind

Weather



ATAL BEHARI VAJPAYEE
His Bharatiya Janata Party squeaked into power last year. Many cheered when government staged nuclear tests, but euphoria faded as food prices rocketed.



JAYARAM JAYALALITHA
If the next election results in as finely balanced government as the last, she could hold power with her MPs from the All-India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam.



SONIA GANDHI
As president of Congress, Sonia Gandhi has helped the party to improve its standing at state level. Her name and her widowhood help to pull in votes in the countryside.



JYOTI BASU
The communist Chief Minister of West Bengal, Congress rejected the attempt at the weekend to thrust him into the breach and make him prime minister.



LALOO PRASAD YADAV
Chief minister of Bihar until removed last year because of corruption charges. Controls the Rashtriya Janata Dal party, which could hold balance of power.

Collapse of coalition talks propels India into election

By PETER POPHAM in Delhi

INDIA, THE stop-go state, went into stop mode yesterday when party leaders and the President admitted failure in their attempts to find an alternative to the government toppled by a single vote 10 days ago. The caretaker Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, asked the President to dissolve the Lok Sabha (House of Commons) and elections will be called shortly - India's third in three years.

After more than a week of feverish talks between parties, India's political stalemate proved terminal. The Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which headed the fragile coalition and lost a vote of confidence on 17 April by 270 votes to 269, was unable to lure even a single MP across the barricades.



Visitors leaving the parliament building in Delhi yesterday as the country faces another election Reuters

Congress fared no better. On Tuesday, the Congress president, Sonia Gandhi, told President K R Narayanan she was in a position to form a new government, with the support of 272 MPs. But an important ally that had pledged support changed its mind. Congress had hoped to take power with the support of left-wing and lower-caste parties. Among them was the Samajwadi Party, led by Mulayam Singh Yadav.

At state level Mr Yadav's party was locked in battle with Congress and he was forced to renege on his promise. After Congress admitted failure, the Third Force, which as the United Front ran the previous government, thrust forward the West Bengal communist leader Jyoti Basu as its choice for prime minister. With support from Congress, it

might have worked. But Congress decided that even a mid-term election - the 5th such election since 1979 - was preferable to such a messy fudge. Thus the BJP's first extended spell in government ended in confusion. The surprise is that it lasted as long as it did, and that was Mrs Gandhi's doing. From the start, the prima donna of Tamil Nadu, Jayaram Jay-

alitha, had threatened to withdraw her vital 18 MPs if the government failed to do her bidding. Mr Vajpayee did what was politically feasible to keep her happy, but her demands were outrageous. Frustrated, she might have pulled the plug at any moment, but for more than a year Mrs Gandhi gave her no encouragement. Only in the past month did Congress ap-

parently lose its nerve and tip Ms Jayalalitha the wink. Congress had declined to act before because India was fed up with one election after another, and Mrs Gandhi insisted her party cultivate an image of responsibility in contrast to its former rampant opportunism. This posture lent the BJP-led government an air of solidity it did not deserve.

Yet in other respects the BJP had earned a turn at national power. In the minds of millions of Indians, particularly among the urban lower middle class, it represented the only clear-cut alternative to Congress, which has ruled India for most of the past 50 years. The BJP's leaders were seen as patriotic and untainted by scandal. For the common man, the new government did exactly the right thing by staging the nuclear tests last May, soon after it came to power. But their inexperience in operating the levers of government was palpable. Towards the end of the year the price of onions and tomatoes - two staples - shot up. Many believe this was due to hoarding by BJP supporters bent on making money while the BJP sun shone and confident (rightly so) that the government would not dare to act against them.

The other stain on the BJP's record was the licence given to fanatical groups on the extreme right of the nationalist movement to attack Christians with impunity. In four key states Congress support is on the rise. For millions in the countryside Sonia, despite her Italian origin, is a Gandhi and a figure around whom the party has united. That is enough.

Peking may outlaw cult behind rally

BY TERESA POOLE in Peking

"IN OUR office there are two people who are members; they spend a lot of time meditating," said a Peking government seamstress yesterday. With police still out in force around central Peking, many ordinary Chinese had not heard of Sunday's silent protest, when more than 10,000 members of the Falun Gong cult, practitioners of the martial art qigong, assembled outside the Communist Party headquarters. But almost everyone seemed to know someone who followed the cult.

The extraordinary demonstration had dispersed by midnight, with cold winds and driving rain aiding the police as they gently herded the thousands from the area. But while the protest ended as peacefully as it had been conducted, inside the party leadership compound at Zhongnanhai anxious officials must have wondered how a network claiming 60 million followers could have organised the biggest demonstration in Peking for a decade right under the noses of China's security apparatus.



Police quiz people at the Falun Gong protest Reuters

Yesterday, some practitioners staged a sit-down outside Zhongnanhai. The State Council leadership instructed personnel from the complaints bureau to engage in persuasion and dissuasion work," said a State Council spokeswoman for the government. "Regarding some qigong and bodybuilding activities, to our understanding, all levels of government have never banned them."

Across China, Falun Gong adherents follow the teachings and supposedly health-giving meditation and martial arts techniques of Li Hongzhi, a 47-year-old qigong master now living in New York. His main book has been banned in China, and Falun Gong has no status as an official religion, but Mr Li's followers have created the biggest non-government movement in China, and one that vents its displeasure when tried.

Weathermen face grapes of wrath

EVERYONE MOANS that the weathermen always get it wrong, but few would think of suing meteorologists for their mistakes. But that is exactly what a group of French wine producers from the Perigord region wants to do.

The vine-growers are furious that Météo-France, the main French weather forecasters, failed to warn them about a heavy hailstorm that struck the area last Wednesday. They claim that their harvest has been destroyed - an economic catastrophe for the area - and they are demanding justice.

Jean Roger, 50, president of the Vine Growers Association for Pyrénées-Orientales, said: "The storm should have been foreseen; we should have been warned. If the weathermen can predict that it will rain in Paris at 3.23pm, how did they miss this?"

According to the Chamber of Agriculture, 2,080 hectares of vines suffered severe damage, and a further 5,230 hectares were mildly affected. Grapes have been detached from the vine, and those remaining have been bruised. "Our whole harvest has been lost and it has made men of all ages cry," said Mr Roger.

One man and his tricky cats

STREET LIFE
SAMOTECHNY LANE, MOSCOW

"SHOW ME how you laugh at your house," says the clown, holding out a microphone into the front row. "Tee hee hee," goes an embarrassed girl. "Call that a laugh?" demands the clown. "Now I'll show you how to laugh."

"Just try, mate," the boy next to me mutters. The famous Yuri Kuklachov has brought his unique Cat Theatre to Kuzminki, a working-class suburb of Moscow. I have come with a friend, who organises outings for deprived children.

The boy beside me is from this group, a cynical 11-year-old called Fedya. "I bet the cats fall and splat like mince-meat," he says. The children, and the adults who have rediscovered the child in themselves, may be receptive but Kuklachov is going to have to work hard to win over such sneering near-teenagers.

Actually I am rather sceptical, too. As a cat owner, I know the truth of the old joke where the dog says to himself: "He feeds me, he strokes me, he must be God." The cat says: "He feeds me, he strokes me, I must be God." You can never make a cat do what it does not want to do.

But of course Kuklachov, who has been working with cats for 25 years, knows that and always goes with rather than against their instincts. The show opens with the clown setting out a picnic and the cats stealing tidbits. It is nature, but choreographed. A ginger cat enters, seeming to push a pram containing a tiny dog. "You can see the wires," says Fedya. "That's because the pram is heavy," I say, "but could you make your cat stand up on its back legs and strut across the stage like that?" The acts become increas-

ingly spectacular. Cats walk the high wire and fly out over the audience on swings. The black and white Sosiskin (Little Sausage) climbs an eight-metre pole, the drums roll and he jumps, "without parachute or gas mask," into Kuklachov's arms. The cats' feats are interspersed with acts by promising child circus performers. At the end, Kuklachov throws giant plastic balls out for the audience to punch back and forth. Forgetting his street cred, Fedya leaps from his seat to join in.

In his field, Kuklachov is as great as Rudolf Nureyev was in ballet. "Love is the key," he says. "I hate the circus because everything there is achieved by force. This is not circus, it's theatre. The cats are playing for pleasure." While he peels off his false nose, Kuklachov tells me that nine years ago he lived and worked in Blackpool. Because of British quarantine laws, he could not take his own cats, raised from kittens, but he managed with a temporary troupe adopted from the RSPCA. "I can communicate with any cat," he says.

Homesickness propelled him back to Russia, where he nearly went out of business as the state, generous in Communist times, stopped subsidising the arts. A pet food firm now sponsors him and donates 120 tins of meat a day - one for each cat. Kuklachov gives me a book of tricks you can do at home. I am also carrying an armful of posters signed by the clown. "Can I have one of those?" asks Fedya. "You liked the show, then?" "It wasn't bad." From an 11-year-old who has seen it all, this is praise indeed. HELEN WOMACK

Typical, you're not even thinking about a holiday and twenty five come along at once.

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BUSINESS

B&B vows to fight predators
as 62% vote for conversion

BRIEFING

Terranova boosts Unigate defence

TERRANOVA FOODS, the chilled food producer, bolstered its defence against the hostile £228.5m bid from Unigate yesterday when it issued strong first-quarter profits. Reporting a 13 per cent rise in profits to £3m for the three months to the end of March, Terranova said the company was well placed to deliver good underlying growth.

The company said these prospects were underpinned by strategic initiatives, including expansion in continental Europe. In Terranova's last chance to issue fresh information on the bid, Terry Stannard urged shareholders to reject it, saying: "Unigate is trying to win the company on the cheap."

Cruickshank named SMG chairman

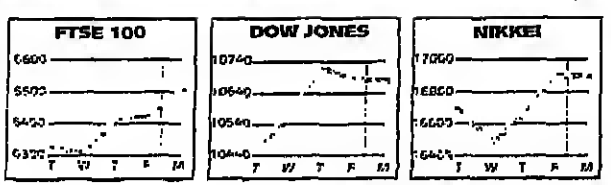
DON CRUICKSHANK (pictured), the former head of telecoms watchdog Ofcom, has been appointed chairman of Scottish Media Group, the owner of Scottish Television, Grampian Television and the Glasgow Herald.

Mr Cruickshank rejected suggestions there was a conflict of interest as he also advises Lord Hollick, chairman of United News and Media, on the company's bid for a third-generation mobile telephone licence. United is a possible bidder for SMG, which was put into play last month after Mirror Group sold its 18.6 per cent stake to Granada. Mr Cruickshank, who also chairs the Action 2000 millennium bug taskforce and the review of UK banking, will spend one day a week at SMG.

Cable & Wireless in £550m sale

CABLE & WIRELESS is to raise £550m by selling its submarine cable-laying operation to Global Crossing in a deal which marks a further withdrawal from peripheral businesses. Cable & Wireless Global Marine has a fleet of 13 ships and 21 subsea vehicles and is one of the world's leading installers of undersea fibre optic cable systems.

STOCK MARKETS



Staying mutual will be hard to do

IS THIS finally the end for Britain's mutually owned building societies? The vote at Bradford & Bingley yesterday is obviously a blow, but the movement should not, perhaps, be written off entirely just yet. The standard bearer of mutual ownership is Nationwide; the business and financial case it makes for not converting remains as convincing as ever, and by the look of it, customers continue to support that case.

Building society conversion has in truth been little more than a giant con on the British public. There is no such thing as a free lunch and there is certainly no such thing as free shares. Over the years ahead, we will all end up paying through higher mortgage and worse savings rates for the "giveaway capital" these companies now have to service. It is impossible to quantify the exact extent of this trade-off between short-term gain and long-term loss, but Nationwide is probably not too far off the mark in putting it at £30-plus per annum.

There are, of course, many cases of proprietary companies offering keener rates than mutually owned ones. But in the main these are one-off promotions, or loss-leading offers that do not last. It also needs to be



OUTLOOK

asked whether any of them would exist at all but for the competitive pressure that the mutual sector continues to add to the market place. All other things being equal, the fact that mutuals don't have to pay a dividend will always make them more competitive.

Over the years, Bradford & Bingley has made a reasonable fist out of demonstrating these mutual benefits to customers. If even then its directors were unable to stop members voting for the short-term gain of conversion, what hope for others? B&B was slower at closing its doors to the carpetbaggers than others, and thus certainly made it more vulnerable. Nationwide is going to have

to fight hard for its continued mutual status, but it shows little sign of doing just yet.

Acquisitive GEC

A BUSINESS does not have to end in a con to command an astronomical valuation, Lord Simpson of GEC demonstrated yesterday. Simply producing the kit that powers the Internet age can be enough. GEC is paying 80 times earnings and seven times sales to buy its way into the market for Internet switching equipment with the £2.8bn acquisition of the US business, FORE Systems.

By any yardstick that is a mind-boggling price for a manufacturing company, even one in such a fast-growing sector of the market. The last time GEC went shopping in the US telecoms industry it snapped up a manufacturer of access equipment for a modest two times sales. This time the market saw Lord Simpson coming, which is reflected in the 80 per cent premium GEC is paying to the market valuation of FORE just a month ago.

Then again, there is nothing quite like the Internet phenomenon. This year the volume of data traffic

is forecast to outstrip voice traffic, putting GEC's latest acquisition in pole position to capitalise on the explosion in cyberspace.

Apart from taking GEC deeper into telecoms and still further away from washing machines and power engineering, yesterday's deal produces another strange sensation for GEC shareholders. Once completed, GEC will be geared for the first time anyone can remember. Three months ago GEC was a defence electronics company with a cash mountain of £2.7bn. Today it is about to become a telecoms-led company with net debt and a further £3bn of credit still to tap.

With interest rates at such historic lows, it probably makes sense not to have so much tied up in the bank. But nothing could demonstrate more graphically the break GEC has made with the Lord Weinstock era than Lord Simpson's gamble on the Internet age.

Morgan Grenfell

AS CITY comebacks go, the one being achieved by Morgan Grenfell, the fund management group, takes some beating. Little more than

three years ago it was being written off as dead in the water, condemned to a slow and possibly terminal decline by the antics of a half-crazed young fund manager called Peter Young. Not so today, as our news analysis on page 14 demonstrates. Morgan Grenfell is winning new mandates at a rate not seen since its heyday in the mid-1990s, and in terms of investment performance, it is once again beating most of its peers.

How was this achieved? One thing is for sure: had it not been for the decision of its parent company, Deutsche Bank, to take the Peter Young affair full on the chin, admit full responsibility and bend over backwards to compensate investors, Morgan Grenfell would indeed have been finished. The whole thing ended up costing Deutsche well in excess of £500m, a sum that will take many years to earn back. In most respects, however, the gamble has paid off.

Morgan Grenfell lost some business, but given the scale of the negligence involved, surprisingly little. Most pension fund trustees took the "one bitten, twice shy" view. The group also managed to keep many of its key fund managers in place,

notwithstanding a spirited attempt by Nicola Horlick to lead them off to pastures new. That, too, has paid off with a performance that has left many rivals looking askance.

Everything in the City is relative, and in truth Morgan Grenfell hasn't hugely outperformed the market as a whole. However, set against the extremely poor performance of other leading active fund managers, this is impressive. Unlike others, Morgan Grenfell remained bullish. It didn't go overweight in cash and it backed the hot sectors of telecommunications, IT and pharmaceuticals at an early stage. The approach has paid off handsomely. Morgan Grenfell deserves its comeback.

Bank of England

SUSHIL WADHWANI is in most respects an ideal choice of appointment to the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee, but that's not going to stop a lot of people claiming he is not. It would be hard to describe Mr Wadhwani as anything other than an academic economist, and that, for many industrialists, trade unionists and

politicians, is just what's wrong with the MPC.

What's more, Mr Wadhwani has spent some years working in the financial markets - first for Goldman Sachs and then for one of the world's largest hedge fund operators - and that in the eyes of many should further count against him. What's needed, contends this lobby, is someone firmly grounded in reality, an industrialist with some understanding of the pain being inflicted by high interest rates on manufacturers and others vulnerable to the strong pound. Instead we've got yet another person with his head in the clouds.

Well, perhaps, but actually Mr Wadhwani's expertise and work would seem to qualify him better rather than most for the impartial decision-making that must lie at the heart of an independent monetary policy. Actually, it is a good thing the MPC is staffed by "experts". To have an industrialist or trade unionist determining interest rates wouldn't seem to be much of an advance on the Chancellor. It is also just as well that the City seems prepared to pay people like Mr Wadhwani these days, that there is still anyone public-spirited enough to do it.

WH Smith launches net service

WH SMITH has become the latest company to join the ranks of free Internet access providers with the launch of WHSmith Online, writes Nigel Cope.

The service, which goes live today, aims to capitalise on Smith's educational heritage by including free access to the Hutchinson family encyclopedia and National Curriculum guides as well as revision and homework tips for students.

But Smith's has put itself at a disadvantage to rivals by charging 50p for the CD-Roms which will be available from its stores. Although this is the same as Tesco charges for its Internet access discs, Dixons



Richard Handover (left), WH Smith's chief executive, and Estel Morris, Education Minister, launching the company's free Internet service yesterday. Mark Chilvers

Freeware software is free. Smith's plans to donate the 50p fee to educational charities.

WHSmith Online will also offer 10 retail sites selling books,

CDs and videos. A news service offers features from magazines such as *Vogue* and *The Economist*.

There is also a year's free use

of Cyber Patrol, a filtering tool that enables children's Internet access to be supervised. Smith's shares soared 38p to 778.5p on the launch.

Co-op announces 3,000 job losses and £149m sell-off

CO-OPERATIVE RETAIL Services, the Rochdale-based part of the Co-op empire, yesterday announced almost 3,000 redundancies as part of a plan to pull out of non-food retailing.

In two separate deals netting a total of £149m, CRS is selling its 40 living department stores to the privately owned house builder Miller Developments. Ten of these are being sold on to Primark, the discount clothing retailer owned by Associated British Foods.

The CRS is also selling its 10 out of town HomeWorld stores to Kingfisher for £80m. Kingfisher plans to convert four of the stores to its new Big W format,

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

a hypermarket version of Woolworths. The first Big W is due to open near Edinburgh in June and will include a Burger King restaurant and Peacocks clothing range in addition to the usual Woolworths merchandise.

If Kingfisher's £180m merger with Asda goes through, the stores could also include Asda's George range of clothing. A further four HomeWorld outlets will be converted to the B&Q Warehouse format.

CRS said it had told the 3,000 staff of their redundancy terms, but hoped some might be re-em-

ployed by the stores' new owners. The shops will continue to trade under their existing formats for three months.

Andy Meehan, who joined the CRS as chief executive from Storehouse last year, said the disposals would allow the group to "stop the source of our heaviest losses, regain control of our destiny and facilitate our drive into the convenience food sector where we have already started to be highly successful".

The sales leave CRS with its 472 supermarkets and 174 funeral parlours and interests in property and car retailing. The supermarket business has sales of £1.2bn but loses money due to

inefficiencies and poor buying terms. The CRS moved to improve these terms by joining CRFG, a Co-op buying group. This is expected to yield millions of pounds in cost savings.

The CRS also announced yesterday that Peter Rowbotham has stepped down as chairman after a disagreement on strategy. He had opposed the disposals and announced his decision to go at the weekend. "My decision draws a line under the re-orientation of the company, but with the decision to sell non-food and the introduction of a new senior management team, my departure is timely. It's time to look forward to a whole new society."

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Hail Morgan Grenfell, comeback kings

News Analysis: The asset manager sent reeling by the fallout from the Nicola Horlick and Peter Young affairs has returned to the top

BY LEA PATERSON

JUST two-and-a-half years after it became embroiled in one of the most notorious financial scandals of recent times, Morgan Grenfell, the asset management arm of Deutsche Bank, is outperforming almost every other major UK fund manager.

Unlike most of its peers, Morgan Grenfell beat the FTSE All-Share index in 1998, with its flagship pooled pension fund returning 16.4 per cent over the 12 months. It won £3bn of net new business last year, more than any other major UK house – not bad at a time when active fund managers are under more pressure to match the performance of tracker funds. "People have certainly been surprised at how well they've done," said one competitor.

It's all a far cry from a couple of years ago when the prospects of Morgan Grenfell – then known as Morgan Grenfell Asset Management (MGAM) – had been all but written off by the investment community. MGAM was reeling from the double whammy of Nicola Horlick, the so-called Superwoman who left the amid claims that she was plotting to defect to a rival bank – and the Peter Young scandal.

Mr Young, one of MGAM's star fund managers, was suspended after a series of "irregularities" were discovered in a number of his funds. Deutsche MGAM's parent, bailed out investors to the tune of almost £200m, several MGAM senior managers were unceremoniously sacked, and Mr Young became the subject of a lengthy investigation by the Serious Fraud Office that still continues.

The speed of Deutsche's bail-out was one reason why the damage to MGAM's reputation was not as bad as feared. But it is only part of the story. According to management at Morgan Grenfell, there were at least two other reasons why the company was able to come back so strongly. First, internal measures – a lot of time and energy was devoted into persuading MGAM fund managers to stay. And second, solid investment performance.

Karl Sternberg, deputy chief investment officer at Morgan Grenfell, said: "We would have lost clients in large numbers if we'd lost fund managers in large numbers. But we didn't."

On investment performance, Morgan Grenfell profited from spotting a series of investment trends its major competitors failed to notice. The company realised early on that the so-called "new industries" such as pharmaceuticals were characterised by high entry barriers and clear sources of competitive advantage – both good news for earnings. Unlike many peers, Morgan Grenfell did not pile into more traditional UK industries, arguing that a combination of excess capacity and low inflation would harm their ability to generate quality earnings growth.

According to Mr Sternberg, Morgan Grenfell has also realised the limits of active fund management – the company



The high profile Nicola Horlick, dubbed 'Superwoman', left Morgan Grenfell amid claims that she was plotting to join a rival bank

only takes bets when it feels it can win. For example, it has refused to try to call the markets. Many UK fund managers – most notably Phillips & Drew – moved heavily into cash in the mid-1990s amid fears the bull run was about to end. Morgan Grenfell resisted the temptation, arguing it was virtually impossible to call the market at the right time. "One area where we have added

value is that, unlike many competitors, we haven't made the cash call," says Mr Sternberg. Other Morgan Grenfell peers – including Merrill Lynch Mercury Asset Management – have been criticised for failing to rein in their fund managers. Although Morgan Grenfell fund managers are allowed a degree of discretion, the key allocation decisions – such as the weight-

ing given to cash or to bonds – is made by a central committee. Fund managers are only allowed to vary by 1 per cent from the committee's decisions. However, Morgan Grenfell cannot claim all the credit for their recent solid run. Put simply, its competition – at least among UK active managers – hasn't been up to much. The other major houses – Mercury

Asset Management (MAM), Gartmore, Schroders – have consistently underperformed. MAM is also struggling with the fallout from its spat with Unilever which is attempting to sue MAM for its poor performance in 1997, while Phillips & Drew has seen its reputation tarnished by its move into cash.

Where does Morgan Grenfell go from here? It cannot count on continued underperformance from its rivals. Indeed, the signs are that Morgan Grenfell's competitors have already begun to get their act together. Mercury, for example, has won £3bn (£3bn) of new business in the first quarter of this year, more than in any year before it was bought by the US bank Merrill Lynch. Morgan Grenfell, like its rivals, is also going to have to con-

FUND PERFORMANCE	
Performance of the major pooled funds, 1998	
	% return
Morgan Grenfell	16.4
Mercury	12.7
Gartmore	11.9
Phillips & Drew	9.4
Schroders	5.3
FTSE All Share	13.8

Note: Percentage returns are quoted for selected UK pooled pension funds
Source: CAPS

tend with the growing competitive challenge from passive fund management. And, although the company's institutional reputation may be flourishing, retail investors are still wary – Peter Young's decision to appear in court to answer fraud charges dressed as a woman only served to remind retail customers of the scandal that engulfed the firm a few years ago.

But perhaps the most serious challenge facing Morgan Grenfell is its parent company's merger with Bankers Trust of the US. The uncertainty caused by the BT deal has caused all sorts of problems in other parts of Deutsche's franchise, but the asset management business has, at least until now, remained largely immune.

Publicly, of course, Morgan Grenfell is confident the merger will be nothing but good news. Privately, both inside and outside the firm, there are doubts about how well the risk-averse culture that pervades Morgan Grenfell will go down with the innovative and brazen fund BT managers.

That said, if a company can successfully cope both with losing a fund manager with the profile of Nicola Horlick and with the fallout from the Peter Young scandal, dealing with a merger or two should, in theory, be a breeze.

UK will vet BAE-Marconi merger

THE GOVERNMENT has won its battle with Brussels to vet the £7.3bn merger between British Aerospace and GEC's Marconi defence business.

Stephen Byers, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, is expected to announce shortly that the deal will be examined by the UK competition authorities and not the European Commission's mergers taskforce.

The decision will anger the French and Germans, who lobbied hard for the deal to be vetted in Brussels. Although the EC competition authorities will still have the power to examine the civil aspects of the merger, these are comparatively insignificant.

The decision by BAE and Marconi to opt for a "British solution" to defence restructuring ended merger talks between BAE and DaimlerChrysler Aerospace (DASA) of Germany and quashed hopes of an electronics merger between GEC and Thomson-CSF of France.

Jürgen Schrempf, DASA chairman, has since warned that the BAE-Marconi deal has killed any chance of creating a

BY MICHAEL HARRISON
Business Editor

single European aerospace and defence company.

The UK's success in wresting the merger from Brussels means that it will be examined by the Office of Fair Trading, which will submit a recommendation to ministers after a six-week investigation.

Senior BAE and GEC executives remain confident the deal will avoid a referral to the new Competition Commission and believe it could be approved by the summer.

Under its terms deal shareholders will receive 1.17 billion BAE shares, giving them a 37 per cent stake in the enlarged company. BAE will take on £1.55bn of debt and pay GEC a further £440m in loan stock.

The merger will create the biggest defence contractor in Europe and the third-largest in the world, with combined sales of \$20bn (£12.3bn) and could produce £275m of savings a year. The cost of implementing the merger will be around £200m.

Its new "World Development Indicators", an annual compendium of statistics, highlights a wide range of inequalities between rich and poor states.

For example, GDP per head has grown faster in the rich countries, reaching 2.3 per cent growth between 1965 and

Diane Coyle in Washington reports on plans to ease hardship and handle future crises

Financial crisis hampers effort to cut world poverty

THE LONG MARCH towards the reduction of poverty has been stalled by the financial crisis of the past two years, according to a new report from the World Bank yesterday.

The report concludes there are some encouraging trends, but warns that new inequalities between rich and poor countries are emerging in cyberspace, with little Internet access in the developing world.

"This has been more than a financial crisis. This has been a crisis of institutions not robust enough to sustain the force of an increasingly global economy," said James Wolfensohn, the World Bank president.

The Bank warns that it will become increasingly difficult for the international community to achieve goals such as reducing poverty and infant mortality and universal primary education.

For instance, in the Philippines and Sri Lanka there is a much higher ratio of mobile telephones to land lines than there is in European states such as Belgium and France.

Some sub-Saharan countries, including Botswana, Djibouti and Ghana, already have fully digital telephone networks.

Even so, the poorer nations lag far behind in the number of mobile phones in use, with just 1 per 1,000 of the population compared with 129 in the richest countries, and 18 fixed telephone lines per thousand compared with 506.

There are similar disparities in computer and Internet access. Two in every thousand people in poor countries have access to a personal computer, while more than one in four do so in the rich countries. There is less than one Internet host for every 10,000 people in the low income countries, and 375 per 10,000 in the high income ones.

There are exceptions, of course. Cuba has as many Internet hosts per capita as France, while South Africa and Venezuela rival Portugal. Among the emerging regions, Latin America boasts by far the greatest computer access.

But the region ranks second to central and eastern Europe in Internet access. South Asia lags far behind in both cases, despite India's reputation for strength in the software industry.

There is much else to be gloomy about as the century draws to an end. Increases in life expectancy in sub-Saharan

Africa in recent decades have in many countries been wiped out by the spread of HIV and AIDS.

The growth of the school-age population in countries of the developing world has outpaced primary school enrolments. Living standards in Russia and Eastern Europe have diverged since 1989. What's more, levels of foreign aid have fallen to their lowest in almost 50 years.

In an effort to find some rays of hope, the report makes some encouraging observations. India and China have largely escaped the recent crisis, it notes.

Some poor countries, such as Botswana and China, have sustained rapid growth in GDP and incomes. In general, living standards around the world have risen dramatically over the past quarter of a century.

But Mr Wolfensohn ends his introduction by striking a more sombre note. "A year ago we confidently predicted that the international development goals of halving poverty, cutting infant and child mortality by two-thirds and enrolling all children in primary education could be met. Now those goals are at risk."

FINANCE MINISTERS and central bankers from the Group of Seven industrial countries failed to agree yesterday on how to make private-sector lenders take part in future international financial rescues.

Although they are determined that the private sector must share the burden in future IMF rescues, little progress is expected in the near future.

However, the G7 did reach agreement on plans to sell some of the IMF's \$30bn gold reserves to finance a more generous programme of debt relief for the world's poorest countries. Details of the plan are likely to be announced by G7 leaders at their June summit, but the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, urged the sale of at least \$3bn of IMF gold to generate extra funds for debt relief.

This was the first G7 meeting in almost two years at which there was a sense that the world economic position had begun to improve, senior officials said. Although there are fears about over-dependence on US growth, ministers were cautiously optimistic that the economic and financial crisis is over. European officials stressed that the EU was playing its part in boosting growth.

The meeting discussed the likely impact of the war in the Balkans. This is not expected to damage the world economy as a whole, but the International Monetary Fund and World Bank will begin to plan for the post-war reconstruction of the region.

The failure to agree on private-sector involvement in crises hinged on the question of whether the IMF ought to draw up a set of rules governing private lending to emerging markets, or whether crises should be settled on a case-by-case basis. Mr Brown strongly urged the former, while Robert Rubin, the US Treasury Secretary, favours the latter.

The US is determined that private lenders will share the burden. Larry Summers, the Deputy Treasury Secretary, said on Sunday that creditors must not expect "with absolute certainty" to be repaid on time. However, the US is concerned about a possible lender backlash that would further slow the already paltry flows of new investment to emerging economies. The Institute of International Finance, an association of bankers, stressed this in response to Mr Summers' speech at its conference.

He spent seven of his years at DTZ sitting slap bang next to his ex-England team mate Rob Andrew. Mr Andrew only left when rugby union turned professional a couple of years ago, when he was whisked off to play full time for Newcastle.

Mr Rose will be working for one of the property sector's best known personalities, Martin Landau, the deputy chairman of Development Securities.

The company recently redeveloped M15's old offices in Curzon Street, London, and is busy building a new business park at Cambourne outside Cambridge.

Sexy business

A SCOTTISH publishing company is about to launch the business world's answer to *Loaded*, the lads' mag. *Unlimited* aims to portray business as "sexy, glamorous and gutsy".

John Hatfield, who is editing the new mag on behalf of publishers Carriv Group, says: "Most business magazines in Scotland are very advertorial or very corporate. We believe entrepreneurs are more likely to read *FTM* or *Loaded* than *The Economist*."

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by zero back then to more than 60,000 by last Friday.

Coming up Roses

MARCUS ROSE, the former England rugby player, is joining quoted property developer Development Securities as director in charge of its investment portfolio.

Mr Rose played for the Varsity match for Cambridge in 1979 and went on to win his first cap in the red rose shirt in 1981.

For the past 13 years Mr Rose has worked for DTZ Debenham Thorpe, in charge of the property firm's West End investment agency team. He

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Figures are off the Railtracks

WHO SAID there were lies, damned lies and statistics? Probably a railwayman in the new privatised era, if recent events are anything to go by.

Railtrack's much-vaunted 10-year Network Management Statement promised £27bn of investment, but critics swiftly narrowed it down to just £1.4bn of new money or £140m a year.

One of the major losers was Rail Freight Group, which was offered very little in terms of copper-bottomed promises of new money. But the cover-sheet of a 30-page document from Rail Freight Group attacking Railtrack's plans, published today, scores an own-goal. Under the heading "Our six most important conclusions," it lists – you guessed it – just five.

Bouncing clever

MICHAEL COPPEL has retired as chairman of Airsprung

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK



Future after 30 years with the West Country-based group. Originally from Belfast, Mr Coppel joined John Yates, one of the founding members of the company, in 1969 after his own bed factory in Northern Ireland was blown up during the Troubles.

Mr Coppel helped Airsprung through its flotation and became chairman in 1993. The Yates family still owns 41 per cent of the company, based in Trowbridge, Wiltshire, which was originally founded in 1870.

Currently two members of the third generation of the Yates family help run Airsprung: Jeremy Yates is managing director of the Gainsborough beds and sofas subsidiary, while Stephen Yates is marketing director of Airsprung.

Peter Ziemiak, chief executive of Airsprung, joined in 1978 and says Mr Coppel has left the business "in good nick". A new chairman will be announced over the next week.

Happy St George

SPEAKING OF family firms, Don Lewin, whose family owns 37 per cent of the ubiquitous Clinton Cards, named the shop chain after his son Clinton – who is now managing director.

Clinton Cards decided four years ago that St George's Day (23 April) was in need of pepping up as England's national day, and launched a range of cards accordingly.

Sales of St George's Day cards have risen from virtual-

ly zero back then to more than 60,000 by last Friday.

Company Results

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COMPANY RESULTS	
Company	Turnover (£)
BATM Advanced Comm (P)	US 16.072m (10.557m)
Henry Boot & Sons (P)	172.12m (162.15m)
Calvert Investments (P)	12.34m (113.65m)
PLP Therapeutics (P)	0.472m (1.134m)
Premier Data Group (P)	5.5m (4.5m)
Recycling Services Group (P)	13.727m (12.256m)
SBS Group (P)	26.31m (11.30m)
Software Group (P)	-
Weston Co (P)	15.72m (14.55m)

(P) - Fiscal (F) - Financial (D) - Quarterly (SP) - Split Period (M) - Nine Months

Company	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	X-div
BATM Advanced Comm (P)	3.62m (1.458m)	11.50c (4.84c)	0.5025c (0.5025c)	21.06.99	10.05.99
Henry Boot & Sons (P)	10.59m (10.13m)	29.10p (27.10p)	3.10p (8.50p)	04.05.99	04.05.99
Calvert Investments (P)	-0.007m (0.365m)	-0.48p (2.11p)	1.225p (1.225p)	30.06.99	07.06.99
PLP Therapeutics (P)	-14.2m (10.2m)	-50p (36p)	-	-	-
Premier Data Group (P)	0.552m (0.482m)	10.3p (25.10p)	-	-	-
Recycling Services Group (P)	0.052m (0.017m)	0.25p (0.10p)	-	-	-
SBS Group (P)	1.36m (0.529m)	10.3p (6.20p)	-	-	-
Software Group (P)	1.07m (0.558m)	15.7p (13.8p)	7.2p (1.30p)	23.05.99	04.05.99
Weston Co (P)	1.54m (1.35m)	14.24p (11.75p)	5.10p (5.00p)	01.07.99	10.05.99

Henry Boot

1998 RESULTS

PROFIT GROWTH MAINTAINED

Year ended 31st December	1998	1997
Turnover	£172.1m	£162.2m
Profit before tax	£10.6m	£10.1m
Basic earnings per share	29.1p	27.1p
Dividends per share	9.1p	8.5p
Net assets per share	233p	222p

FURTHER INCREASE IN DIVIDENDS AND NET ASSETS

Henry Boot & Sons PLC
Banner Cross Hall, Sheffield S11 9PD
Tel: 0114 255 5444 Fax: 0114 258 5548

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FUND PERFORMANCE

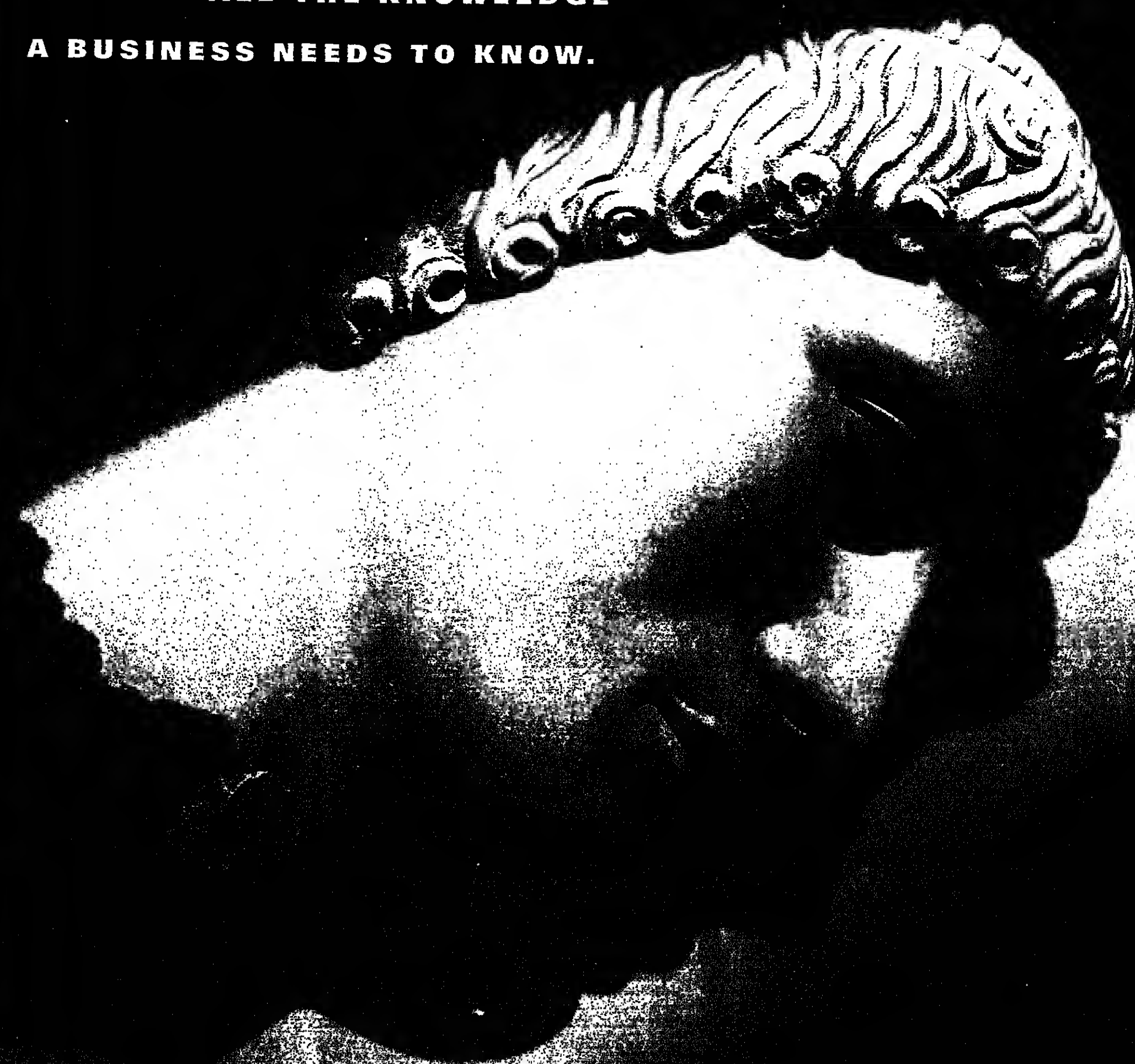
Fund	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year
Investment Company of America	15.2%	38.1%	52.3%
Investment Company of America	14.8%	37.5%	51.8%
Investment Company of America	14.5%	37.0%	51.5%
Investment Company of America	14.2%	36.5%	51.2%
Investment Company of America	13.9%	36.0%	50.9%
Investment Company of America	13.6%	35.5%	50.6%
Investment Company of America	13.3%	35.0%	50.3%
Investment Company of America	13.0%	34.5%	50.0%
Investment Company of America	12.7%	34.0%	49.7%
Investment Company of America	12.4%	33.5%	49.4%

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...ministers fail
...ree private
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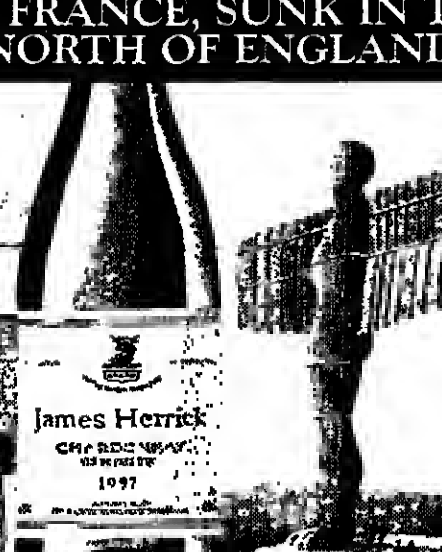
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Hanson gives strong base for FTSE rally

HANSON PROVIDED a solid foundation for a strong rally in the FTSE 100 yesterday, as dealers prepared for a positive trading update from the former conglomerate.

The building materials group, risen from the ashes of Lord Hanson's sprawling empire, cemented a 35p increase to 621.5p ahead of a major European roadshow.

The market believes that the company will this week delight continental investors with a raft of bullish news. The focus will be on the US, where Hanson derives around half of its £1.8bn turnover. Over the next five years, demand for the group's products will be boosted by a multi-billion dollar roadbuilding

MARKET REPORT



FRANCESCO GUERRERA

6,503.8, within a whisker of its all-time high, but the rise was confined to a few chosen stocks. The mid-cap was in subdued mood, scraping a 4.1 rise to 3,788.6. The small cap fared better ending 11.7 up to 2,533.9, another record for the year.

LINDEN, a tiny housebuilder, was in demand yesterday amid talk that a large development is about to be given the go-ahead.

The shares hilt a 15.5p rise to an all-time high of 226p on whispers that the group is soon to be granted planning permission to develop a 56-acre site.

The development, which should include houses and some retail space, could add over £20m to the group's book value.

programme funded by the US government.

Hanson is expected to tell European fund managers that it is ideally placed to take advantage of the road bonanza, having bought several small building materials businesses in the US in recent times.

Other bolt-on buys could be on the cards. Hanson's field day was completed by speculation that it might bid 200p per share for Alexander Russell, up 40p to 167.5p. The tiny building materials business was in takeover talks with RMC, which owns a 25 per cent stake, but the discussions foundered after a disagreement on price.

The FTSE 100 had an odd day, finishing sharply higher on thin volume. The blue-chip index closed 75.6 higher at

helped with positive noises on BT's residential and Internet revenues.

In a related sector, Flextech, the broadcast group, beamed 35p higher to a five-year high of 851p after Investec Henderson Crowther increased its share price target by a whopping 27 per cent to 905p. Analyst Mathew Horsman likes the group's interactive shopping prospects and anticipates an important deal in digital television.

The Internet worked its magic on a couple of stocks. GEC logged on a 29.5p rise to 688.5p - a five-year peak - after consummating its long-awaited multi-billion pound deal. It bought the US Internet communications equipment group Fore for a mere \$4.5bn.

WH Smith, the newsgroup, finally announced details of its free web access and delivered a 38p rise to 778.5p.

Banking stocks were excited by the Bradford & Bingley vote to scrap its mutual status. The rumour mill started churning out names of potential bidders. Lloyds TSB, up 14p to 981p, and NatWest, 38p higher at 1,503, were mentioned.

Tesco took a hattering, shedding 5p to 190.75p as worries over another price war prompted a downgrade from Morgan Stanley. Marks & Spencer lost another 6p to 448.25p as the Warren Buffet stake remained pie in the sky. Reckitt & Colman, the Harpic maker, slipped 14p to 717.5p on fears that one of its biggest shareholders may be looking for an exit. The fund manager Capital yesterday sold nearly 2 per cent of Reckitt, keeping just over 10 per cent.

Arriva, the transport group, was rocked by last week's bearish trading statement. It crashed 28.5p to 386.5p amid wild rumours that old accounts will have to be looked at again.

Bid rumours swept the undercard. Ultraframe, a maker of conservatory roofs, reached for the sky, rising 18p to an all-time high of 415.5p. There is some talk of a strike from cash-rich Hepworth, down 1p to 191.5p. Hepworth is also said to be looking at overseas building materials producers.

Takeover favourite Cox Insurance rose 10.5p to 200.5p in tandem with insurance brokers Lambert Fenchurch. Their bigger rival, Jardine Lloyd Thompson, down 5p to 228.5p, is rumoured to have had a look. The advertising group Maiden rose 26.5p to 404p on talk of a bid from Carlton, up 3p to 630p.

First Leisure flexed its muscles and went 4.5p higher to 254.5p after confirming talks over an all-share merger of its fitness unit with Cannons, down 3p to 193.5p. The talks could flush out a counterbid from Whitbread, down 15p to 1,032.5p and still said to be looking at Grenalls, or Bass, up 22.5p to 952.5p. The real estate

NETBET, an on-line bookmaker, yesterday marked its first day on the junior Ofex market with an astonishing rise.

The company, run by the bookie Mark Blandford, soared 102.5p to 172.5p as investors gammoned on the success of the first-ever quoted Internet betting venture. NetBet, operated from an off-shore base to reduce tax liabilities, offers a 24-hour betting service on football, rugby, cricket and horses.

group Greycoat developed a 4p rise to 337p after confirming The Independent's story of a management buy-out funded by Mercury Asset Management.

The collapse of bid talks, probably with Spain's NH Hotels, unsettled Jarvis Hotels, which lost 20p to 139p. Bula Resources, an Irish oil miner, firmed 0.25p to 1.25p on rumours that a large Libyan deal is near. BATM, the information technology group, buzzed 63p higher to 585p after good results and rumours that a computer plant, possibly 3Com, IBM or Cisco, is building a 4.5 per cent stake.

SEAQ VOLUME: 899.3 million
SEAQ TRADES: 77,795
GUILTS: 110.79 - 0.24

Ringling tills return retail stocks to favour

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

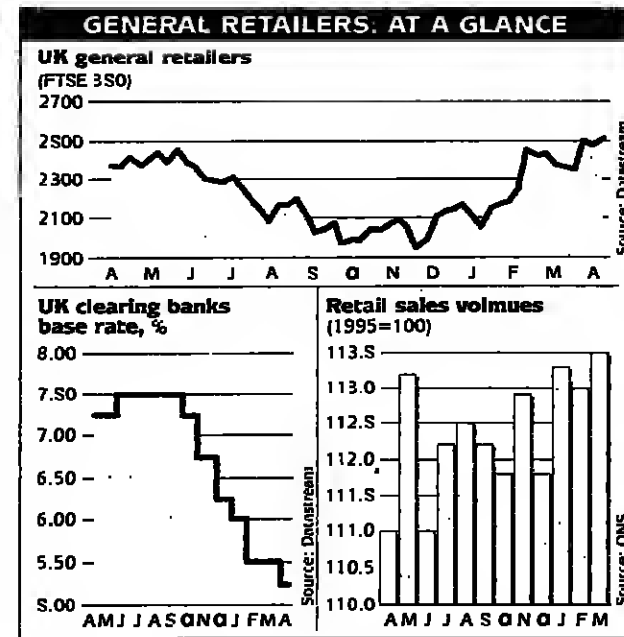
WITH THE UK economy seemingly heading for a soft landing, the stock market has started to view retail stocks more kindly. After a dreadful run last year the general retail sector has enjoyed a strong rally since its low point at the beginning of December, rising by 25 per cent since then.

The rise has been fuelled by improving consumer confidence, which has been boosted by cuts in interest rates and signs of life in the housing market, while fading fears of financial meltdown in Russia and the Far East has boosted the FTSE 100 to near record levels.

Gradually, institutional investors have begun to move back to retail stocks, with some smaller caps making a comeback. But is the recovery sustainable, and have smaller investors missed the boat?

Views on the subject are mixed, but most analysts still see scope for value in stocks that have yet to enjoy the re-rating afforded to companies such as Next. Verdict, the retail consultants, feel the second half of this year will see an improvement in retail fortunes, helped by a "feel-good millennium factor".

Morgan Stanley recently upgraded its earnings estimates on Kingfisher, Dixons and New Look, saying: "With the UK housing market showing tentative signs of a more meaningful recovery and like-for-like retail sales volumes showing some recovery from the depressed



fourth quarter of last year, we are increasingly optimistic that the outlook for the second half of 1999 and for 2000 may not be as bad as we originally feared."

Other analysts are more cautious. John Richards at BT Alex Brown said: "I wouldn't call this a false dawn, but it is a gross exaggeration of how trading is for most retailers. Things have picked up from the nightmare scenario of the last quarter of last year, but retail sales growth is still half the level of a year ago."

Nick Bubb at SG Securities agreed. "It's there much difference for retailers between a

hard and a soft landing? Possibly not. Consumers have regained a bit of confidence but are still price conscious. That is resulting in a high level of mark-downs and continued pressure on margins. Profits are likely to remain under pressure too."

Mr Bubb points out that the weekly sales figures at John Lewis, one of the sector's bellwethers, are still below budget.

Analysts therefore urge caution in stock selection. But many agree on one thing - that the recent rise in Marks & Spencer shares has been overdone and bears little relation to the reality of the group's trading.

Mr Richards says the bounce in the shares shows "remarkable complacency about prospects". Mr Bubb says earnings estimates could still come down next month when M&S reports full-year results, while there is still talk of a possible dividend cut.

M&S's woes will also have a knock-on effect on the rest of the mainstream clothing sector as the wounded giant cuts prices to help stimulate demand. Companies in the firing line include Arcadia, Storehouse and House of Fraser.

Better value could be found with "cyclical plays" such as the furnishings sector. Analysts point out that sales of bigger ticket items, such as furniture and carpets, tend to lag the rest of the sector by about six months as interest-rate cuts take longer to filter through. The City likes Carpetright, which is the UK's market leader and well placed to capitalise on the problems of its main rival, Allied Carpets. DFS Furniture could also offer value on a forward multiple of 16.

Elsewhere BT Alex Brown likes Boots and Dixons. Although the price of the latter has been driven skyward by the valuation of Freeserve, its core business should also reap the benefits of the wave of new digital technology products.

Morgan Stanley has raised its target price on Kingfisher to 950p (836p yesterday), saying the proposed merger with Asda reinforces its positive view on the stock.

Its New Look target price has been raised to 270p (240p).

Lacklustre PPL threatens US move

PPL THERAPEUTICS, the company behind Dolly, the controversial cloned sheep, disappointed the City yesterday with lacklustre results for the year ending December.

The company also threatened to move to the United States if it could not secure funding for a new plant.

PPL is struggling to raise £45m to build a new facility in Scotland. It claims it has received offers from American states, including Virginia, but admits it could be difficult to persuade its scientists to make the move.

BY ANNA MINTON

develop AAT, a cystic fibrosis treatment. AAT, which aims to reduce the lung infections caused by cystic fibrosis, is derived from the milk of genetically modified sheep and is the group's most advanced product. It aims to begin phase three of clinical trials within the next year with the backing of a partner.

The City had expected the 35 per cent rise in pre-tax losses to £14.25m, but analysts said they had been hoping for an announcement regarding the partner needed to fund the

launch of AAT. Nick Woolf, senior analyst at BancBoston Robertson Stephens, said: "They're still missing the elusive partner we've been expecting for some time."

"They need the partner to fund phase three and to validate the drug. With £25.8m cash they've got another 18 months' moxie, but we know they'll need more," said Mr Woolf.

Dr Roo James, PPL managing director, said that the February results of the phase two clinical trials of AAT were "very pleasing".

Dr James added that "initial reactions from two of our

potential marketing partners are very positive". Nonetheless, analysts concede that the sector has suffered unduly from excessive hype which has fuelled unrealistic expectations.

"PPL is attractive," said Mr Woolf. "They are at a quarter of the price they were at when they went public, but they have clearly made progress since then with AAT."

Julie Simmons, biotech analyst at Beeson Gregory, said: "We're not quite as bullish as in the past, but we still consider that the shares are undervalued. On a fundamental basis they should be a buy."

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES									
Country	Sterling	Spot	1 month	3 months	Dollar	Spot	1 month	3 months	Euro
UK	1,000.00				0.6207	0.6203	0.6211	0.6568	
Australia	2,484.3	2,486.0	2,483.0		1.5420	1.5421	1.5427	1.6318	
Austria	20,948	20,957	20,922		13.002	13.000	12.995	13.7605	
Belgium	61,411	61,335	61,011		36.118	36.045	37.895	40,340	
Canada	2,380	2,384.3	2,380.2		1,4791	1,4790	1,4784	1,5650	
Denmark	11,318	11,308	11,257		7,0248	7,0143	6,9820	7,4329	
Euro	1,522.6				0.9451				
Finland	9,048.4	9,036.8	9,034.6		5,6163	5,6056	5,5824	5,9457	
France	9,981	9,969	9,916		6,1932	6,1836	6,1590	6,5586	
Germany	2,976.0	2,979.4	2,975.6		1,8472	1,8481	1,8482	1,9558	
Greece	496.48	498.72	501.62		308.16	309.36	311.56	326.06	
Hong Kong	12,486	12,493	12,483		7,7498	7,7496	7,7531	8,2001	
Ireland	1,198.4	1,196.8	1,190.5		0.7438	0.7437	0.7432	0.7876	
Italy	294.7	294.5	292.5		187.96	187.8	187.89	199.27	
Japan	192.2	191.38	190.19		118.31	118.84	118.13	126.24	
Malaysia	6,122.2	6,259.8	6,456.2		3,8000	3,8830	4,0100	4,0209	
Mexico	15,007				8,5150			9,8562	
Netherlands	3,353.3	3,349.0	3,331.4		2,0814	2,0774	2,0692	2,2027	
New Zealand	2,931.1	2,933.3	2,930.1		0.9497	0.9495	0.9499	1,0250	
Norway	17,605	17,637	17,647		7,2745	7,2888	7,2853	8,2791	
Portugal	305.07	304.68	303.09		189.36	189.00	188.25	200.48	
Saudi Arabia	6,041.9	6,051.3	6,054.0		3,7502	3,7537	3,7602	3,9681	
Singapore	7,385	7,351	7,312		1,6988	1,6945	1,6847	1,7986	
South Africa	9,871.0	9,857.2	9,838.8		6,0710	6,1145	6,2010	6,4237	
Spain	253.19	252.87	251.54		157.16	156.96	156.24	166.86	
Sweden	13,549	13,537	13,478		8,4100	8,3973	8,3685	8,8886	
Switzerland	2,439.0	2,440.6	2,437		1,5139	1,5139	1,4992	1,6019	
US	1,611.1				1,0000			0.9451	

OTHER SPOT RATES									
Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country
Argentina	1,611.1	1,000.0	Oman	0.6207	0.3850	Uruguay	50.550		
Brazil	2,738.9	1,700.0	Pakistan	81.441	37.950	Venezuela	3,640.8		
China	13,339	8,279.3	Philippines	61.141	37.950				
Czech Rep	5,543.9	35,652	Poland	3,997.5	3,997.5				
Egypt	5,543.9	34,435	Qatar	5,865.6					
Ghana	391.5	243.0	Russia	391.5	243.0				
India	68.987	42.820	Taiwan	191.7	118.95				
Indonesia	13,883.6	86,17.5	Thailand	50.722	37.680				
Kuwait	6,491.5	0.301	Turkey	825.990	389.000				
Nigeria	150.98	93.710	UAE	5.9176	3.6730				

INTEREST RATES									
Country	3 months	6 months	1 year	2 years	3 years	5 years	10 years	15 years	30 years
UK	5.75%								
Base									
European Central Bank	Discount	5.00%							
O/N Marginal	5.50%								
O/N Facility	1.50%								
Repo	2.50%								
Prime	6.50%								
Swedish									

BOND YIELDS									
Country	3 months	6 months	1 year	2 years	3 years	5 years	10 years	15 years	30 years
Australia	4.58	0.00	4.61	-0.02	4.78	-0.01	5.11	-0.01	5.39
Belgium	4.58	0.00	2.58	0.00	2.78	0.02	3.42	0.02	4.13
Canada	4.61	0.03	4.76	0.03	4.80	0.01	5.05	0.05	5.24
Euro	2.59	-0.01	2.68	0.00	2.68	0.01	3.22	0.01	3.88
France	2.59	-0.01	2.61	0.00	2.76	0.09	3.24	0.00	3.98
Germany	2.59	-0.01	2.68	0.00	2.68	0.01	3.08	0.02	3.88
Italy	2.55	0.00	2.64	0.00	2.79	0.01	3.32	0.01	4.14
Japan	0.07	0.00	0.09	-0.01	0.16	-0.02	0.64	0.03	1.50
Netherlands	2.59	-0.01	2.68	0.00	2.77	0.01	3.25	0.03	4.02
Spain	2.50	0.00	2.60	0.00	2.69	0.02	3.39	0.02	4.12
Sweden	2.91	-0.01	2.94	-0.03	3.13	0.00	3.56	0.01	4.27
Switzerland	1.00	0.03	1.20	0.02	1.43	0.01	1.87	0.01	2.46
UK	4.92	0.02	5.37	0.01	5.01	0.02	5.22	0.04	5.48
US	4.34	0.07	4.48	0.21	5.05	-0.02	5.17	-0.03	5.28

LIFFE FINANCIAL FUTURES									
Contract		Settlement	High	Low	Est floor	Open interest	Contract		Settlement
Long Gilt	Jun-99	116.53	116.85	116.31	153,640	821,300			
5 Yr Gilt	Jun-99	107.57							
German Bund	Jun-99	115.41							
Italian Bond	Jun-99	114.44	114.72	114.35	104,740	363,120			
Japan Govt Bd	Jun-99	134.96	134.96	134.83	476,000				
3 Mth Sterling	Jun-99	94.85	94.85	94.82	197,220	1,799,940			
3 Mth Eurobor	Sep-99	94.88	94.89	94.84	240,630	1,950,230			
3 Mth Euribor	Jun-99	97.38							
3 Mth Euribor	Jun-99	97.40	97.40	97.39	18,620	207,360			
3 Mth Euribor	Sep-99	97.42	97.43	97.41	18,620	215,380			
3 Mth Eurosto	Jun-99	98.84							
3 Mth Eurosto	Jun-99	98.93	98.97	98.93	12,972	105,036			
3 Mth Eurosto	Sep-99	98.85	98.88	98.84	57530	697,330			
3 Mth Euro Libor	Jun-99	97.38							
3 Mth Euro Libor	Jun-99	97.40				104,557			
3 Mth Euro Libor	Sep-99	97.42				91,789			
FTSE 100	Jun-99	6539.00	6558.00	6463.00	152,620	1,966,500			
LIFFE FTSE 100 INDEX OPTION									
Settlement Price: 6503.60									
Series	Call	Imp Vol	Put	Imp Vol	Net Call	Put	Net Call	Put	Net
6450	218	24	92	20	238	157	365	195	637
6455	184	23	109	20	263	176	331	217	-1
6500	154	23	113	19	243	156	303	236	575
6500	133	23	108	20	209	130	372	263	-1

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Villepre

SPORT

Football: Departing Benfica manager laughs off white handkerchiefs as he looks forward to family life

Souness unmoved at mock farewell

HALF THE capacity crowd at the Stadium of Light in Lisbon were waving white handkerchiefs the other week in mock farewell to Benfica's outgoing manager as a police escort led him away. Sacked for only the second time in his long and successful career, he not only has to see the season out first before departing, but has already met his successor. And no, he is not walking straight back into employment in Britain.

So how is Graeme Souness faring these days? Strangely, as he returns from a walk with his pregnant wife, Karen, and his beloved dogs in the grounds that surround his beautiful Hampshire home near Winchester, the man is smiling. "I've had many of my football friends contacting me to express their sorrow at my sacking," he says, as he settles down in the living room.

"I have to tell them that I'm happy. I'm coming home to my wife, who is expecting in August. I've got a brand new lawnmower that I intend to use very shortly. I'm going to enjoy living in a house I've had for three years but barely slept in, and, most important of all, I'm going to see much more of my family. On a professional note I have a nice feeling about myself. Only I understand the true difficulties of the Benfica job and I know, under the circumstances, that I did bloody well. So no, it's not bravado. I'm truly a very happy man."

He seems it, as well. In truth, he's been half expecting the chop for much of his 18-month spell in Lisbon, a period which makes him the longest-serving coach at the club for six years. "I was promised \$50 million (£31m) to spend on constructing a squad capable of becoming champions again, and a force in Europe," the 45-year-old former Rangers, Liverpool, Galatasaray, Torino and Southampton manager, explains. "I've actually spent \$500,000. Any other buys came from money generated by ourselves."

"Within three months I realised it was going to be very, very tough. Benfica have the most demanding group of fans I've ever come across, far more than at Rangers or Liverpool. They think Benfica have a God-given right to be the best in Europe. But the club's been mismanaged for years now. They haven't won a league title for five years which, for a club supported by 60 per cent of the Portuguese population, is considered unforgivable. And they're still in the region of \$40 million in debt."

Despite all this, Souness, together with his trusty lieutenant, Phil Boersma, hauled Benfica up from sixth to the runners-up spot in the league last season behind Porto and a place in the Champions League. It should have been time to celebrate, but Souness understood what this achievement meant.

"Coming second gave me a little



IAN STAFFORD

leeway, but it wasn't regarded as a great feat. I knew that there would be only one outcome this season if we failed to win the championship. I'm a big boy, I've been in the game now a long, long time and once I had come to terms with the way it is in a Latin country where there is just one giant club I was able to accept anything and everything."

The axe fell officially after Benfica went down 2-1 to lowly Braga last week, but Souness knew his time was up after his team of Portuguese and cheap British imports fell 0-3 at home to joint second-placed Boavista. "It was a bad result, of course, although the scoreline wasn't a fair reflection on the game. It was played in front of 80,000 people. In our next home game 15,000 turned up. It's the nature of the beast, I'm afraid."

"The president asked me to come over for lunch, but I knew what he was going to say. You see, from the start of the season my job was hanging on two bad results. I've since found out that other coaches were being contacted about the job after the Boavista defeat."

Was he aware of the handkerchief send-off? Souness smiles wryly. "Well, when there's an 80,000 crowd, and over half of them are waving them at you, there's a decent chance it won't escape your notice," he replies. "It didn't bother me in the slightest. I've had 100,000 Romanians baying for my blood in Bucharest before, so this was nothing. But it unsettled some of my younger players and, when you bear in mind it happened after 10 minutes when we were just a goal down, that was pretty unhelpful."

Souness has analysed his term of office in Lisbon but is unable to find too many faults. "Any trainer's job is to get the best he can out of the group of players he has, and in that department I don't think anyone else could have got more out of them than me. I'm super-critical about myself, but I'm leaving the club in a far better position than when I started. I don't care who they are, I defy anyone to have done better under the circumstances made available to me."

Absurdly, Souness has to see out the season. He insists, like a true professional, that he will try his hardest to raise Benfica back up to second place and into the Champions League, but even he accepts



At peace in his Hampshire garden: 'I've got a new lawnmower that I intend to use shortly,' says Graeme Souness David Ashdown

the situation has become strange. "It's a bit bizarre, isn't it? Once the decision's made, you want to get out and get on."

Perhaps more bizarrely, he spent last Saturday night in the company of Jupp Heynckes, the man who will be replacing him at Benfica. Heynckes knows a little about Souness' current experiences. Last year the former German international player was told he was on his way out of Real Madrid shortly before he won the European Cup. Still, it was an awkward moment. "I got the feeling he was a little uncomfortable," Souness admits. "I could quite see the funny side of it. Anything goes in a Latin country, and

I wished him good luck for his future." Sounds like Heynckes is going to need it.

As for Souness, he's in no hurry to throw himself back into the game that has been his life for much of his 45 years. He's already received one offer. "It's an interesting one where I would be involved both in managing and investing, but it's not what I'm looking for right now," he admits. "I'm going to learn from my mistakes." In what way? "Well, when I left Southampton I took the first offer that came along, without taking in any background research. It didn't work out." By this he means he became manager of Torino, was presented with a team by the owners,

and was sacked after six games. This followed an unhappy spell at The Dell. "The next job has to be the right one, with people who want to go forward and achieve. I thought this was the case at Southampton, but I was told a tale. Nope, I'm in no hurry whatsoever. I'm going to enjoy the summer."

We take a stroll beside the stretch of the River Itchen that he actually owns and watch as the brown trout flit their way through the waters. Does he regret his 18 months in Portugal? "No, not at all," he insists. "The Portuguese are lovely people, but they take their nice, friendly heads off and leave them at home when they go to a

match. You never stop learning in this game, and I believe I'm a better coach now than I was when I started in Lisbon. Football is a fickle game in England, but it's not a patch compared to Portugal. If you can work at Benfica, you can work anywhere."

What if another European giant came in for him? Graeme Souness stops and looks at me with an expression that begged no debate. "You mean a huge club whose supporters are so desperate for success that their lives almost depend on it, but there's no money?" He shakes his head and screws up his face. "I wouldn't touch it," he says. "Not a chance."

Big four dominate Welsh tourists

RUGBY UNION

By Chris Hewett

THE GREAT and good of the Welsh Rugby Union have yet to complete their deliberations on the make-up of next season's "super club" quartet, which is no great surprise given that WRU conclusions come around about as frequently as Test victories over the All Blacks: on average, one every 46 years. A strong power base is beginning to emerge in the principality, however. Twenty-nine of the 37 players selected for this summer's World Cup shakedown in Argentina come from Cardiff, Llanelli, Pontypridd and Swansea – a concentration of talent that mirrors Graham Henry's vision of a new dawn for Wales.

Assuming Shane Howarth and Craig Quinell, two of Henry's most prominent performers in the Five Nations' Championship, complete their widely touted moves to Cardiff and Ponty respectively, only five tourists will come from outside the big four. The coach's blueprint, which requires the best Welsh players to be contracted to the best Welsh clubs and exposed to the best Welsh and cross-border competitions, is being followed almost to the letter.

Henry had toyed with the idea of giving a handful of up-and-comers, including Gareth Cooper of Bath and Alex Popham of Newport, a first taste of life on the Pampas, but World Cup imperatives intervened. His first tour squad is particularly strong at centre and loose forward and the New Zealander has armed himself with six props, a smart move considering the Pumas' reputation for scrummaging the pants off visiting packs.

Three uncapped players have made the cut: the Swansea scrum-half Rhodri Jones, the Newcastle back-rower Richard Arnold and the Llanelli open-side Ian Bookhyr. There is a recall for Arwel Thomas, the most naturally gifted Welsh stand-off for a generation, and big opportunities for two tight forwards whose careers have been blighted by injury, Jonathan Humphreys, the Cardiff hooker, and Andy Moore, the Swansea lock. The most-capped Welsh second row of them all, Gareth Llewellyn, may yet be added if a broken arm rules out Pontypridd's Ian Gough.

Wales are scheduled to play two Tests in Buenos Aires, on 5 and 12 June, and have also signed up for an adventurous trek into the badlands of Tucuman, where men are men and rugby-playing guests tend to get pelted with anything that comes to hand. It will be a tough ask for a Welsh side weighed down by the psychological baggage of so many ill-disciplined and unsuccessful tours, but Henry will discover an enormous amount about his side's prospects this autumn. Argentina have been drawn in Wales' World Cup group.

Just across the Severn Bridge, Gloucester finally completed the first of a planned series of visits to the transfer market by securing the services of Junior Parameo, the influential loose forward from Samoa. Parameo agonised long and hard before turning his back on Bedford – indeed, last Friday's change of ownership at Goldington Road almost persuaded him to stay put – but the 30-year-old agreed a three-year deal yesterday.

"It was a difficult decision, but I have come to Gloucester for family reasons and for the security the move will bring," explained Parameo, who must undergo corrective surgery on a neck condition before playing again.

"Not the right time to go. I have spoken to Rudi Straeuli, the Bedford coach, and he understands my reasons," Straeuli probably understands the reasons why another of his international forwards, Scott Murray, is considering offers from Newcastle and Saracens, but if the new Bedford are going to progress at all, they cannot afford to haemorrhage genuine talent.

There was reassuring news of Zinzan Brooke yesterday as the Harlequins captain-coach continued to recover swiftly from a whiplash neck injury suffered at Saracens on Sunday. The former All Black No 8 was not detained at Watford General Hospital and while another appearance this season was considered unlikely, doctors told him he would regain full fitness sooner rather than later.

WALLES SQUAD (Tour to Argentina, May and June): Backs: S Howarth (Sale), R Bodebyer (Llanelli), M Robinson (Coventry), R Wales (Richmond), D James (Pontypridd), G Thomas (Cardiff), R Morgan (Pontypridd), A Batesman (Richmond), M Taylor (Swansea), L Davies (Cardiff), S Gibbs (Swansea), N Jenkins (Pontypridd), A Thomas (Swansea), S Jones (Llanelli), R Howley (Cardiff), D Morris (Swansea), R James (Swansea), C Quinell (Cardiff), C Anthony (Swansea), G Jenkins (Swansea), J Humphreys (Cardiff), C Caldwell (Richmond), I Gough (Pontypridd), C Wynne (Llanelli), M Vynny (Llanelli), A Moore (Swansea), S Quinell (Llanelli), C Charles (Swansea), S Skinsmore (North), G Lewis (Pontypridd), R Arnold (Newcastle), M Williams (Pontypridd), I Bodebyer (Llanelli), Players on standby: R James (Swansea), P John (Pontypridd), S Hayward (Llanelli), G Williams (Richmond), J Davies (Llanelli), G Llewellyn (Pontypridd), N Jenkins (Llanelli).

Villepreux must not be a French fall guy

WE ALL agree it has been a marvellous Five Nations season, the best for years. It will not, I hope, be thought grudging if I say its fascination derived less from the quality of the rugby than from the capricious nature of the scorelines and the reversals of form in two of the countries involved. I refer, of course, to Scotland and France.

Throughout the season, from the moment they took the field in the Dublin rain, the French looked several courses short of the full menu at lunch. Many observers, some of them French themselves, have blamed their performance on a lack of concentration on the task in hand. They were, according to this explanation or excuse, looking forward to the World Cup instead.

Others have blamed one of their coaches, Pierre Villepreux. The French are fond of sending supposed enemies of the people to the guillotine – though in this respect



ALAN WATKINS

their recent rugby record is no worse than that of England or Wales.

I hope Villepreux does not go the same way as Geoff Cooke or Jack Rowell. Alan Davies or Kevio Bowring, partly because he is one of the most engaging characters in world rugby, partly because France played in a slow, clumsy, above all joyless way which was

contrary to everything he has ever believed in.

My own view is that France's disappointing season derived largely from straight errors in selection. For these the other members of the committee of public safety, Jean-Claude Skrela and Jo Maso, must take their share of responsibility.

For instance, Emile Ntamack is a world-class wing. That does not make him a world class or even a competent international full-back.

True, the days are long gone when a wing was considered a try-scoring luxury whose only other function was to throw the ball, usually none too accurately, into the line-out, a pattern with which the French, by the way, persisted for longer than any other nation. Wings and full-backs can sometimes now be exchanged, as outside halves and full-backs always could be and indeed still are.

Ntamack, however, always appeared liable to spill the high ball.

It would have been better to restore him to his proper position and play Jean-Luc Sadourny at full-back. People said he was injured. He was not so injured as to be unable to play for Coloniers against Ulster in the final of the European Cup. When the international season itself was underway, he turned out for France A. The long-term injuries to Christophe Lamaison and Stephane Glas not withstanding, I find it difficult to believe the French could not have come up with two better centres than the ones who took the field on their behalf.

Superficially Jim Telfer, the Scottish coach, could not be more different from Villepreux: a stern Presbyterian to Villepreux's Renaissance prince. Yet it was Scotland rather than France who played the more jewelled and more artistic rugby.

Undoubtedly luck had some part in this. If the half-backs, Bryan

Redpath and Duncan Hodge, had not been injured at the start of the season, Telfer would have had them at scrum-half and outside half respectively. Gregor Townsend at outside centre, and both Gary Armstrong and Alan Tait, two of the best players in the competition, on the substitutes' bench. All these would not have been able to prosper if Stuart Grimes and Scott Murray had not been outstanding in the second row, and Eric Peters and Martin Leslie in the back row. If Bath mess Peters about as they do, one week at No 6, another at No 7 and another on the bench, I am not altogether surprised they are not the force they used to be.

Telfer, by contrast, used the massive Peter Walton intelligently at No 6 as a 60-minute strength-sapper. When up to six substitutes were allowed in internationals for tactical reasons as well as for injuries, I said this could change the

game. So it has proved – up to a point.

I am glad Graham Henry, the Welsh coach, took my advice and fielded an entire reserve front row against England; even gladder that he has got on terms with the Quinell brothers. And Scott Gibbs is now one of the acknowledged Celtic saints, along with Saints Barry Bledyn, Gareth, Gerald and JPR. It might so easily have ended differently if Thomas Castaignède had kicked his conversion, and Neil Jenkins missed his. Wales and not France might have finished at the bottom of the Five Nations' table.

This, along with the results of the Ireland-France and England-Scotland games, is what I mean by the capriciousness of the scorelines. As it is, all my fellow countrymen have to do to complete their present and doubtless temporary happiness is get the new stadium ready in time for the World Cup.

Guyana faces boycott by Australians

AUSTRALIA'S CRICKET authorities will not sanction a return to trouble-prone Guyana until they are sure improved security measures have been taken in the wake of further crowd violence in the West Indies.

The Australian Cricket Board considered the frightening scenes at the final one-day international in Bridgetown, Barbados, on Sunday as way out of character for cricket fans on the island. But the Australian Prime Minister, John Howard, the ACB and the players' union none the less voiced their disgust at the events in Bridgetown so soon after two crowd invasions in Georgetown, Guyana, last week.

The Barbados crowd pelted the Australian team with bottles after the controversial run-out of the home-town hero Sherwin

CRICKET
BY BRIAN MCKENNA
in Bridgetown, Barbados

Campbell - and one of the missiles missed the head of the touring captain, Steve Waugh, by inches, prompting him to claim he had feared for his life. Last Wednesday a chaotic invasion of the Bourda ground in Guyana ruined the result of the fifth one-day match and attracted widespread condemnation. An ACB spokesman, Michael Hogan, said yesterday that the board considered the latest events as "totally unacceptable". He added that the ACB chief executive, Malcolm Speed, would raise safety fears at an International Cricket Council meeting in London next month.

"We won't be going back to Guyana unless things change," Hogan said. "Barbados isn't quite the same situation - as Malcolm says, the Bajans are very enthusiastic and easy-going cricket lovers."

Yesterday the ICC chief executive, David Richardson, reacted quickly to condemn the violence and outline what he believes the West Indian Cricket Board should do to minimise the possibility of crowd trouble. "These are very unsatisfactory incidents, they were very ugly indeed," Richardson said. "The two events involved different behaviour but they were equally worrying. There are a number of things that we have to do. We have to send a strong message out to fans everywhere that you can't put players at risk. They are there to entertain and



The Australian players (from left) Ricky Ponting, Darren Lehman and Brendon Julian are protected by police as they leave the field in Bridgetown on Sunday after supporters throw bottles from the stands.

into games. The West Indies' cricket authorities will have to look at that."

But in World Cup year when the planet's cricketing nations converge in England, Richardson dismissed suggestions that the upheaval might be racially motivated. "This is not down to racial tension," he said.

The Australian Cricketers' Association president, Tim May, was disgusted but not surprised at the crowd disturbances and called on the International Cricket Council to establish a committee to rate all international venues on security factors.

And the Australian captain, Steve Waugh, said: "You can't risk blokes' safety for a game of cricket. It was sheer luck a bot-

le didn't hit someone on the head. It's only a matter of time before someone gets killed."

Howard joined the condemnation of the crowd behaviour. "I think it is quite distressing that mob violence and mob intimidation can have an impact on the game," he said. "It does appear... the umpire's decision was altered as a result."

England upset by contract dispute

ALEC STEWART yesterday hinted at the England squad's resentment at the distraction caused by their World Cup pay dispute with the England and Wales Cricket Board. However, the England captain, the unofficial shop steward for the players in the negotiations, reinforced their intention to sign their revised World Cup contracts.

"We were never not going to sign the contract," Stewart said yesterday. "As I've said before, the same 15 players that were in Sharjah were always going to be in the World Cup. There were certain things which needed sorting out, not just financial matters but things like tickets and things like that, but we will be accepting the terms."

"The players should not be negotiating with the Board about contracts. We aren't businessmen or trained negotiators, we are professional cricketers and perhaps someone else should have handled that side of things."

Stewart was speaking the launch of his book *Alec Stewart - A Captain's Diary* in London yesterday.

NOTTINGHAM

2.15 Split The Aces 2.45 Selkirk Rose 3.15 Barringer 3.45 Chambré Separee (nb) 4.15 Hedges 4.45 Top Jem 5.15 Andaman

GOING: Heavy (Soft in places).
STALLS: Inside except 51 & 61 - stands side.
ORAW ADVANTAGE: High level, 8.5 to 9.5.
Left-hand, odd course. Flat and galloping with easy turns.
Course is 2m 6 f of 1895. Nottingham station 2m. ADMIS-
SION: Club £5 (Ladies, 15-21 years, £2). Intercourse £20 (Ladies, 15-21 years, £2). Silver Ring £2. CAR PARK: Free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS
■ **LEADING TRAINERS:** J. Doolan 20-12 (52.3%), H. Cecil 19-35 (22.4%), J. Doolan 19-35 (22.4%), H. Cecil 19-35 (22.4%).
■ **LEADING JOCKEYS:** K. Fallon 23-18 (77%), T. Sprague 22-79 (22.4%), G. Duffield 20-12 (52.3%), L. Dettori 17-77 (22.1%).
■ **FAVOURITES:** 221-609 (3.3%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Blushing Victoria (2.45), Mysticism (2.45), Andaman (5.20).

2.15 RACE SPONSORSHIP AT NOTTINGHAM SELLING STAKES (G) £2,500 3YO 6f

1. 20.50 CLARANNA (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
2. 35.50 LANCY (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
3. 50.00 LANCY (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
4. 30.50 SATIN SLIPPER (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
5. 00.00 PETIT (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
6. 00.20 SPLIT THE ACES (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
7. 00.20 SPLIT THE ACES (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
8. 00.20 SPLIT THE ACES (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
9. 00.20 SPLIT THE ACES (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
10. 00.20 SPLIT THE ACES (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1

FORM VERDICT

CLARANNA showed she could win a race and handle the mud last year and with a low draw favoured here last week is well positioned in stall one. Those positives outweigh her latest disappointing effort.

2.45 NOTTINGHAM FOR BUSINESS & PLEASURE HCAP (G) £3,500 added 3YO fillies & mares 6f

1. 04.00 BRANSTON BERRY (11) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
2. 04.00 BRANSTON BERRY (11) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
3. 04.00 BRANSTON BERRY (11) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
4. 04.00 BRANSTON BERRY (11) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
5. 04.00 BRANSTON BERRY (11) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
6. 04.00 BRANSTON BERRY (11) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
7. 04.00 BRANSTON BERRY (11) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
8. 04.00 BRANSTON BERRY (11) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
9. 04.00 BRANSTON BERRY (11) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
10. 04.00 BRANSTON BERRY (11) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1

FORM VERDICT

RISKY VALENTINE comes here in form following her all-the-way win over C&D on Easter Monday and will be hard to peg back again. General feeling has been to make more of an impact on turf than she has done so far, but in today's testing conditions it would be a surprise if soft-ground scores Branston Berry or Oriol Girl bounced back.

3.15 NOTTINGHAM 1ST EVERY TIME NOVICE MEDIAN AUCTION STAKES (G) £3,000 2YO 5f

1. 22.00 BARRINGER (12) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
2. 22.00 BARRINGER (12) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
3. 22.00 BARRINGER (12) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
4. 22.00 BARRINGER (12) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
5. 22.00 BARRINGER (12) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
6. 22.00 BARRINGER (12) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
7. 22.00 BARRINGER (12) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
8. 22.00 BARRINGER (12) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
9. 22.00 BARRINGER (12) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
10. 22.00 BARRINGER (12) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1

FORM VERDICT

BARRINGER is a useful early-season sort well served by un-
derground. He looks a lot better than he has been in the past, with
Muffin Man worth considering for the forecast.

3.45 WEATHERBYS ECLIPSE PEDIGREE MAIDEN STAKES (G) £5,300 added 3YO fillies 1m 54yds

1. 04.00 CHAMBRÉ SEPARÉE (USA) (13) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
2. 04.00 CHAMBRÉ SEPARÉE (USA) (13) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
3. 04.00 CHAMBRÉ SEPARÉE (USA) (13) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
4. 04.00 CHAMBRÉ SEPARÉE (USA) (13) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
5. 04.00 CHAMBRÉ SEPARÉE (USA) (13) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
6. 04.00 CHAMBRÉ SEPARÉE (USA) (13) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
7. 04.00 CHAMBRÉ SEPARÉE (USA) (13) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
8. 04.00 CHAMBRÉ SEPARÉE (USA) (13) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
9. 04.00 CHAMBRÉ SEPARÉE (USA) (13) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
10. 04.00 CHAMBRÉ SEPARÉE (USA) (13) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1

FORM VERDICT

The ground is going to be really testing today and this 1m is
going to take a lot of getting. With the current team in good
form, the safest choice is HARRYMAN who can well over the
C&D last season but there is every chance of an upset so con-
fidence is minimal. My Tessa can well over further earlier in the
season and with a couple of runs under her belt she could be
the one to beat.

4.15 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,500 added 3YO 1m 54yds

1. 00.50 HADESA (R) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
2. 00.50 HADESA (R) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
3. 00.50 HADESA (R) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
4. 00.50 HADESA (R) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
5. 00.50 HADESA (R) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
6. 00.50 HADESA (R) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
7. 00.50 HADESA (R) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
8. 00.50 HADESA (R) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
9. 00.50 HADESA (R) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
10. 00.50 HADESA (R) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1

FORM VERDICT

An interesting finale in which KINTURRY gets the vote on his
encouraging third at Leicester. Flying Pig and Kinturay also
could do it with live chances, given lively improve-
ment for the longer run.

FORM VERDICT

A bad race and with only about the top weight HADESA over
the top it could be worth siding with HARRYMAN who
comes here in good form after landing a seller over this C&D
last time. Now with Martin Pipe the selection should act in the
ground and looked to win with a lot in hand last time.

4.45 'COME RACING AT NOTTINGHAM' HCAP (G) £5,300 fillies & mares 1m 2f

1. 04.00 TOP JEM (13) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
2. 04.00 TOP JEM (13) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
3. 04.00 TOP JEM (13) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
4. 04.00 TOP JEM (13) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
5. 04.00 TOP JEM (13) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
6. 04.00 TOP JEM (13) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
7. 04.00 TOP JEM (13) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
8. 04.00 TOP JEM (13) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
9. 04.00 TOP JEM (13) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
10. 04.00 TOP JEM (13) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1

FORM VERDICT

Top Jem should make a big bid to settle up her fourth win
of the month but she has to give odds of weight away to CLUED
UP who has conditions very much in his favour and is on a
very good mark these days.

5.20 249 DAYS LE FT TO MILLENNIUM CLOUDBLOW HCAP (G) £3,500 1m 6f

1. 00.50 BLUEWAVE LADY (17) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
2. 00.50 BLUEWAVE LADY (17) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
3. 00.50 BLUEWAVE LADY (17) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
4. 00.50 BLUEWAVE LADY (17) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
5. 00.50 BLUEWAVE LADY (17) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
6. 00.50 BLUEWAVE LADY (17) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
7. 00.50 BLUEWAVE LADY (17) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
8. 00.50 BLUEWAVE LADY (17) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
9. 00.50 BLUEWAVE LADY (17) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
10. 00.50 BLUEWAVE LADY (17) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1

FORM VERDICT

Bluewave Lady 100. True weight: Kinturay 100. Superb 70. 100.
Kinturay 100. True weight: Kinturay 100. Superb 70. 100.
Kinturay 100. True weight: Kinturay 100. Superb 70. 100.

WINDSOR

5.30 C D Flyer 6.00 Mame France 6.30 Sweet Pea 7.00 Purple Flying 7.30 Compiatrot 8.00 Silvertown

GOING: Soft (Heavy on top band).
STALLS: Inside.
ORAW ADVANTAGE: High level, 8.5 to 9.5.
Left-hand, odd course. Level, with sharp turns.
Course is 1m 10 f of 1895. Nottingham station 2m. ADMIS-
SION: Club £5 (Ladies, 15-21 years, £2). Intercourse £20 (Ladies, 15-21 years, £2). Silver Ring £2. CAR PARK: Free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS
■ **LEADING TRAINERS:** R. Hannon 32-22 (62.5%), Sir M. Stoute 12-46 (23.1%), J. Gosden 11-60 (18.3%), W. Muir 10-82 (22.2%).
■ **LEADING JOCKEYS:** Pat Eddery 34-177 (18.2%), L. Dettori 19-76 (22.2%), C. Duffield 20-12 (52.3%), W. Muir 10-82 (22.2%).
■ **FAVOURITES:** 146-477 (21.9%).

TONGUE STRAPS: Polar Mist (7.20); Modesty Hat (8.00).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Cold Climate (7.20).

5.30 GARTER MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,500 added 2YO 8f

1. ASHLEIGH (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
2. ASHLEIGH (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
3. ASHLEIGH (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
4. ASHLEIGH (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
5. ASHLEIGH (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
6. ASHLEIGH (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
7. ASHLEIGH (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
8. ASHLEIGH (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
9. ASHLEIGH (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
10. ASHLEIGH (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1

FORM VERDICT

Potentially an above-average maiden for the time of year.
Recent form looking for Silvertown to take the eye, but he is
drawn near to the stands and a low number (two) favours
him. He is a maverick an advantage when it is so hard to handle.
This ground is as well as he did last year. He can confirm Newbury
superiority over C D Flyer, with B W Leader the most interest-
ing of the others.

6.00 ERMINE CLASSIFIED STAKES (CLASS F) £2,750 added 1m 13yds

1. 00.50 DUELLO (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
2. 00.50 DUELLO (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
3. 00.50 DUELLO (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
4. 00.50 DUELLO (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
5. 00.50 DUELLO (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
6. 00.50 DUELLO (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
7. 00.50 DUELLO (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
8. 00.50 DUELLO (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
9. 00.50 DUELLO (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
10. 00.50 DUELLO (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1

FORM VERDICT

DUELLO OF YORK is more than he has been in the past. He is
drawn near to the stands and a low number (two) favours
him. He is a maverick an advantage when it is so hard to handle.
This ground is as well as he did last year. He can confirm Newbury
superiority over C D Flyer, with B W Leader the most interest-
ing of the others.

6.30 CROWN HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,250 added 1m 6yds fillies & mares

1. 00.50 INCHINA (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
2. 00.50 INCHINA (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
3. 00.50 INCHINA (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
4. 00.50 INCHINA (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
5. 00.50 INCHINA (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
6. 00.50 INCHINA (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
7. 00.50 INCHINA (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
8. 00.50 INCHINA (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
9. 00.50 INCHINA (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
10. 00.50 INCHINA (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1

FORM VERDICT

Inchinnu could run well with everything in his favour today but
she may well struggle to give so much weight to RICHMOND
who looks really trained and has the benefit of a few days of
runs under her belt. Sweet Pea is a lot better than she showed
at Newbury last time but may find the ground too soft.

7.00 SCEPTRE HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,250 added 5f

1. 00.40 THAT MAN AGAIN (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
2. 00.40 THAT MAN AGAIN (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
3. 00.40 THAT MAN AGAIN (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
4. 00.40 THAT MAN AGAIN (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
5. 00.40 THAT MAN AGAIN (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
6. 00.40 THAT MAN AGAIN (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
7. 00.40 THAT MAN AGAIN (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
8. 00.40 THAT MAN AGAIN (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
9. 00.40 THAT MAN AGAIN (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
10. 00.40 THAT MAN AGAIN (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1

FORM VERDICT

A low draw is an advantage here when the ground is
soft and the runners race up the far side. With plenty of run
in his possession, he may just look for a breather and
PURPLE FLYING should be putting in his best work in the
opening stages. He can run off a mark 100 lower than 12 months
ago and his improvement effort in a big field at Kempton
suggested he is no back number.

7.30 CASTLE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,250 added 3YO 1m 6yds

1. 00.40 THAT MAN AGAIN (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
2. 00.40 THAT MAN AGAIN (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
3. 00.40 THAT MAN AGAIN (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
4. 00.40 THAT MAN AGAIN (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
5. 00.40 THAT MAN AGAIN (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
6. 00.40 THAT MAN AGAIN (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
7. 00.40 THAT MAN AGAIN (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
8. 00.40 THAT MAN AGAIN (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
9. 00.40 THAT MAN AGAIN (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
10. 00.40 THAT MAN AGAIN (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1

FORM VERDICT

The three which appeal most are form comp COMPATROT,
likely-looking newcomer Sarpedon and Shylock. Compatriot's
mark makes him the one and he is preferred to Sarpedon.

8.00 ORB HANDICAP (CLASS F) £2,750 added 1m 2f Penalty Weight £2,519

1. 00.40 THAT MAN AGAIN (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
2. 00.40 THAT MAN AGAIN (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
3. 00.40 THAT MAN AGAIN (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
4. 00.40 THAT MAN AGAIN (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
5. 00.40 THAT MAN AGAIN (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
6. 00.40 THAT MAN AGAIN (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
7. 00.40 THAT MAN AGAIN (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
8. 00.40 THAT MAN AGAIN (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
9. 00.40 THAT MAN AGAIN (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
10. 00.40 THAT MAN AGAIN (10) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1

FORM VERDICT

Homebased is the one to beat after his two runaway suc-
cesses on soft ground. However, BROCKING caught the eye
at Portmact before Homebased last time and, with his sta-
ble in top form, can give odds.

HUNTINGDON

5.15 King Torus 5.45 Satin Lover 6.15 Commuter Country 6.45 Emmacran 7.15 Marching Marquis 7.45 Ballystrong

GOING: Good (Good to soft in places).
STALLS: Inside.
ORAW ADVANTAGE: High level, 8.5 to 9.5.
Left-hand, level course. Run-in 200yds.
Course is 1m 10 f of 1895. Nottingham station 2m. ADMIS-
SION: Club £5 (Ladies, 15-21 years, £2). Intercourse £20 (Ladies, 15-21 years, £2). Silver Ring £2. CAR PARK: Free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS
■ **LEADING TRAINERS:** K. Bailey 19-35 (20.2%), Mrs M. Reveley 15-42 (25.7%), G. Hannon 15-42 (25.7%), G. Hannon 15-42 (25.7%).
■ **LEADING JOCKEYS:** R. Doolan 20-12 (52.3%), W. Muir 10-82 (22.2%), C. Duffield 20-12 (52.3%), W. Muir 10-82 (22.2%).
■ **FAVOURITES:** 250-984 (4.3%).

TONGUE STRAPS: Anandmark (8.35); Hurricane Linda (5.45).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Winward (5.45); Barichate (avoided, 7.35).

5.15 COUNTRYWIDE SURVEYORS HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,000 added 3m

1. 00.50 BUZZ OTTE CROWD (19) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
2. 00.50 BUZZ OTTE CROWD (19) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
3. 00.50 BUZZ OTTE CROWD (19) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
4. 00.50 BUZZ OTTE CROWD (19) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
5. 00.50 BUZZ OTTE CROWD (19) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
6. 00.50 BUZZ OTTE CROWD (19) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
7. 00.50 BUZZ OTTE CROWD (19) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
8. 00.50 BUZZ OTTE CROWD (19) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
9. 00.50 BUZZ OTTE CROWD (19) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
10. 00.50 BUZZ OTTE CROWD (19) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1

FORM VERDICT

A good opportunity. JOINT ACCOUNT, provided his jump-
ing holds up. The emerging lurcher employed on him last
week could expose stables' intentions among some of his ri-
vals. Buzz D The Crowd looks solid each way.

5.45 ABBOTS ESTATE AGENTS NOVICE HUNTER CHASE (H) £2,000 added 3m

1. 00.50 BUZZ OTTE CROWD (19) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
2. 00.50 BUZZ OTTE CROWD (19) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
3. 00.50 BUZZ OTTE CROWD (19) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1
4. 00.50 BUZZ OTTE CROWD (19) (G) 10 fms 8.0. ... J. Weston (2) 1

Argentinian who trained with Maradona is now unemployed in Croydon thanks to disastrous transfer

Palace break Boca junior's heart

THERE CAN be few stranger stories in Crystal Palace's recent turbulent past than the curious tale of Walter Del Rio. A year ago the 22-year-old Argentinian midfielder was a promising squad player for Boca Juniors in Buenos Aires, trained with Diego Maradona, and was hoping one day to play for his country.

Today, after a bizarre eight-month stay at Selhurst Park, Del Rio is a victim of the crisis that has seen Palace go into administration with debts of £22m. The club has not paid him for two months, despite the fact that he is under contract. He lives by himself in a flat in Croydon, wondering whether the balliffs are about to evict him or repossess his car. The club pays his rent but Del Rio says Palace have given no indication when they will stop. The same goes for the repayments on his car, which Palace had been deducting from his salary.

When Del Rio came to England, Palace had just been bought by Mark Goldberg and Terry Venables had been installed as the coach. There were few signs that, less than a year later, Palace would be in the midst of a financial crisis.

Del Rio arrived in August, one of three Argentinians who were brought to Selhurst Park last summer. According to a recent leaked letter from Jim McAvoy, who resigned as Palace's chief executive earlier this year, finding the three players and bringing them to London cost Palace £448,769 in agents' fees and expenses alone, before any contracts were signed. A further £187,500, according to McAvoy, was paid in transfer fees.

The signing of the first two Argentinians was trumpeted in the club programme - one of them was even photographed wearing a Palace shirt - but Pablo Rodriguez (of Argentinos Juniors) then failed a medical and went home, and Cristian Ledesma (a club-mate and Under-21 international team-mate of Rodriguez) returned to

BY NICK HARRIS

Argentina because he was unhappy with the deal offered. Only Del Rio remained. He joined the club on a one-year contract with an option for a further three if things worked out.

The total reward for Palace's Argentinian escapade - at an estimated cost of nearly £900,000 - has been one first-team start by Del Rio, plus one substitute appearance and a handful of outings in the reserves. Goldberg, when asked last week about the cost of the deals, said only: "Your figures are wrong."

Del Rio said that he only travelled to England after being told that Venables had been impressed by watching a video of him in action. He had made 10 appearances for Boca Juniors and had trained with the Argentinian Under-21 squad. "I was very excited to have the chance to play for Crystal Palace," Del Rio said yesterday. A trial followed and Del Rio signed his deal.

On 19 September, he got his first chance of first team football, playing in a 4-0 defeat at Barnsley. "I was surprised to be in the team," Del Rio said afterwards, though he relished the opportunity. In the next match, a 1-0 home win against Sheffield United, he was brought on as a substitute and felt he was progressing. The club's coach, Terry Fenwick, even came on to the pitch afterwards, put his arm around the player, and said: "You did very well today. Well done." It was Del Rio's last appearance in the first team.

"Perhaps Steve Coppell didn't like my football, but no one ever talked to me or told me why," Del Rio said, contemplating why he has not been picked by Palace's current manager. "But no one ever talked to me or told me."

According to a source at the club, this lack of communication was not unusual. New players - Chinese, Swedish, Israeli, Australian and Yugoslavian among them - were arriving all the time. "At times, there wouldn't even have been any-



Walter Del Rio trains alone - "Perhaps Steve Coppell didn't like my football, but no one ever talked to me or told me why" David Ashdown

one to meet new players at the airport if someone from the training ground hadn't been sent off to Heathrow with a placard saying 'Crystal Palace', an insider said.

In March, after the scale of Palace's financial problems had become apparent, Del Rio received a two-sentence letter signed by the club secretary, Michael Hurst. "This is to confirm that Crystal Palace Football Club have given you a free transfer. You have the club's authority to seek future employment with any other club," it

read. Del Rio was not paid in March.

A second letter, dated 13 April, said: "I, as secretary, acting with the authority and on behalf of the Club, hereby give notice that the Club will cancel your contract on 30 June 1999." Again it was signed by Hurst. The club had decided to terminate Del Rio's contract (which it is entitled to do) after one year. It also stopped paying him - presumably because his services were seen as the most expendable. The Israeli David Amaleon appears to be in the same

situation, but, unlike Del Rio, he no longer trains at the club.

"I'm very worried," Del Rio said yesterday of his current situation. "It's very difficult. I sent my last pay home and now I have no money." Del Rio's wages make a real difference to his mother, who lives with his two brothers near Buenos Aires (his father died 13 years ago). Del Rio still goes into training every day to ensure he cannot be accused of breach of contract. "Now I train on my own. It's very difficult. I cannot spend time training with the other players."

Brendon Batson, the deputy chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, said: "We are pursuing the administrators to ensure the players get paid."

"We're not in a position to do anything else. The only guarantee I can give the players is that, if the club stays in business, all the players, present and past, will be paid in full." Neil Fennings, the agent who has now been asked to look after Del Rio's interests, said he could do no more than ask the PFA to intervene. He

added: "We're trying to find an alternative situation for Walter, looking at all avenues. He has a great attitude. He's not one of these players who've come over here thinking he's owed a living. He's a lovely bloke, just looking to get on, play football, and prove himself somewhere."

Del Rio, whose Italian grandfather means he has no permit problems, added: "At the moment I'm looking for a new club. Any club. In London, in England."

Anywhere but SE25, in fact.

Coote steps in to solve crisis

BY DAVID ANDERSON

LAWRIE McMENEMY has turned to Norwich City's reserve-team striker Adrian Coote to solve Northern Ireland's goalscoring problems.

Coote will make his senior debut in tonight's friendly against Canada at Windsor Park, Belfast, and Northern Ireland's manager hopes he can boost his side's flagging firepower - they have scored just three times in their last five games.

"The big search is for forwards and we all know we need goals," McMenemy said. "Iain Dowie is not going to go on forever and I want to see how people like Adrian Coote react to playing on the bigger stage."

Coote, 20, has made just four appearances for Norwich's first team this season. He has earned his chance because James Quinn, the West Bromwich striker, injured his knee against Wolves in Sunday's First Division fixture and has become the 11th player to pull out of McMenemy's squad.

Another definite starter is Reading's defender Barry Hunter, who has fully recovered from a knee injury and will be making his first international appearance for 24 months.

The Canadian squad contains no fewer than 11 players with British or Irish clubs, including the defenders Mark Watson of Oxford United and Richard Hastings of Inverness Caledonian Thistle, plus the Northampton Town striker Carlo Corazzini.

Manchester United's Roy Keane and Denis Irwin have pulled out of the Republic of Ireland squad to play Sweden in tomorrow's friendly in Dublin. The Republic's manager, Mick McCarthy, has called up Kevin Kilbane of West Bromwich and Fulham's Steve Finnan from his Under-21 squad, plus Stoke's Graeme Kavanagh.

Canadian and Swedish squads, Digest, page 23

THE INDEPENDENT Luxury Hotel Offer

The Independent/Independent on Sunday have teamed up with the newly combined Hilton and Stakis Hotels to offer readers '2 nights for the price of 1' at hotels around the country. As part of the celebration of this merger you can enjoy two nights' accommodation, including breakfast, in a range of three to five star hotels from as little as £19.25 per person per night.*



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Hotel	pppn (low)	pppn (high)
Stakis Treetops, Aberdeen	£35.00	£55.00
Stakis Aberdeen City	£24.50	£29.00
Stakis Cullinbridge, Ayrshire	£29.50	£29.50
Stakis Four Seasons, Ayrshire	£32.50	£32.50
Stakis Craigendarroch, Royal Deeside	£37.50	£37.50
Stakis Dundee House	£37.50	£37.50
Stakis Dundee	£37.00	£32.50
Stakis Perth	£26.00	£26.00

CENTRAL SCOTLAND

Hotel	pppn (low)	pppn (high)
Stakis Dunblane	£37.00	£37.00
Stakis East Kilbride	£39.00	£33.00
Stakis Edinburgh Airport	£42.00	£36.00
Stakis Edinburgh Grosvenor	£42.00	£35.50
Hilton Glasgow	£36.00	£36.00
Stakis Ingram, Glasgow	£29.00	£29.00
Stakis Glasgow Grosvenor	£36.50	£34.00
Stakis Gourcock	£32.00	£32.00
Stakis Strathclyde	£37.00	£31.50

NORTHERN ENGLAND & ISLE OF MAN

Hotel	pppn (low)	pppn (high)
Stakis Blackpool	£48.00	£48.00
Stakis Bradford	£29.00	£23.50
Hilton National East Midlands	£21.50	£21.50
Hilton National Huddersfield	£20.25	£20.25
Stakis Keswick, Lake District	£32.00	£20.25
Hilton National Leeds Garforth	£21.50	£21.50
Hilton National Leeds City	£27.00	£23.50
Stakis Leeds	£24.50	£24.50
Hilton Manchester Airport	£32.50	£32.50
Stakis Moorside	£29.50	£24.00
Stakis Newcastle	£34.50	£20.50
Stakis Nottingham	£35.00	£22.50
Stakis St Helens	£39.00	£33.50
Stakis Sheffield	£32.00	£30.00
Stakis Stoke on Trent	£41.50	£41.50
Stakis York	£30.00	£25.00
Stakis Isle of Man		

MIDLANDS & SOUTHWEST

Hotel	pppn (low)	pppn (high)
Stakis Birmingham Metropole	£42.00	£36.00
Hilton National Bristol	£27.00	£27.00
Stakis Bristol	£33.00	£27.00
Stakis Bromsgrove, nr 8ham	£39.00	£22.50
Stakis Corby	£33.00	£30.50
Hilton National Coventry	£20.75	£20.75
Stakis Leicester	£37.00	£20.50
Hilton National Milton Keynes	£21.50	£21.50

Stakis Newport	£35.00	£20.00
Stakis Northampton	£35.00	£20.50
The Lakeside - Swansea	£19.50	£19.50
Stakis Puckrup Hall, Tewkesbury	£39.00	£39.00
Hilton National Wexford	£22.50	£22.50

GREATER LONDON & IRELAND

Hotel	pppn (low)	pppn (high)
Hilton Belfast	£33.00	£33.00
Stakis Park Templepatrick	£39.00	£33.00
Stakis Dublin	£46.00	£46.00
Hilton Heathrow	£27.50	£27.50
Hilton National Croydon	£27.25	£27.25
Stakis Dartford Bridge	£29.50	£25.50
The Pines Hotel Hornchurch	£20.50	£20.50
Stakis Maidstone	£39.00	£35.00
Hilton National Stansted Airport	£19.50	£19.50
Hilton National Wembley	£22.50	£22.50

CENTRAL LONDON

Hotel	pppn (low)	pppn (high)
Stakis Harewood, London	£45.50	£36.00
Stakis Hyde Park, London	£49.50	£49.50
Stakis Islington, London	£48.00	£48.00
Hilton London Kensington	£33.25	£33.25
Langham Hilton	£70.00	£70.00
Stakis London Metropole	£61.00	£61.00
Hilton London Mews	£39.00	£39.00
London Hilton - Park Lane	£70.00	£70.00
Stakis St Ermin's, London	£60.00	£60.00

SOUTHERN ENGLAND

Hotel	pppn (low)	pppn (high)
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Postcode			
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Token		4	
THE INDEPENDENT			

SPORT

SOUNESS' LISBON LESSON P29 • PAUPER AT THE PALACE P22

Keegan insists his kids can cope

FOOTBALL IS not good at perspective. The hatred shown towards Manchester United by Leeds supporters at Elland Road on Sunday, at the same time as the nearby airport received refugees from an extreme manifestation of tribal intolerance, underlined that.

Yesterday, as England flew towards the Balkans, Kevin Keegan sought to show the game's better side and enable some good to come out of the increasingly pointless trip to Hungary for tomorrow's friendly. Keegan, in tune as usual with the popular pulse, asked the players to donate a portion of their match fees to the Kosovo

FOOTBALL
BY GLENN MOORE
in Budapest

Crisis Appeal. It will not be that much, the players are on £1,500-a-man fees, but it showed that the sport was not entirely unaware of the society in which it operates.

"It is something I believe we should do," said Keegan, "a gesture to show we care. We are about to enter an area where there is a war going on next door and I definitely believe this is something the England football team needs to do."

Budapest is 200 miles from

Belgrade and there was some nervousness about tomorrow's fixture with Sol Campbell, who has since withdrawn through injury, expressing his disquiet at the weekend. Now England are here, however, the only indication of any concern is a slight increase in security. Keegan added: "I am happy with the security arrangements. We wouldn't be going if there was a problem. One thing I know, the game should go ahead."

Most of the players here would agree - for several it represents a massive opportunity. Francis Jeffers could have been playing for Everton in tonight's FA Youth Cup semi-final, in-

stead he will be training with the national team. The 18-year-old could even make his debut tomorrow though fellow Merseysiders, team-mate Michael Ball and Liverpool's Jamie Carragher, who were also called up on Sunday evening, are more likely candidates for an international start.

"Carragher has a very mature attitude and won't be out of place in an England squad," said Keegan. "He can fulfil a number of positions but I believe his place is on the right side of a back three. It allows me to change the formation. Ball has been on the fringes of the squad and has progressed

in a difficult season for Everton. The chance for Jeffers has come very early but his confidence is sky high. He scored a terrific goal on Saturday with a very clever run, an international-type run. I liked that. I am a firm believer we have got to reward the kids when we have a chance."

Which is one way of putting it. Cynics might suggest that with Premiership managers reluctant to release players, Keegan is better off bringing in youngsters whose clubs appear to have little to play for. It is unlikely that Ball and Jeffers would both be here if Everton were still in the relegation mire.

Keegan, as ever, was positive. "I don't see the point of falling out with managers, we have to work in tandem. They have all played hall with me, when they've pulled players out they've said 'do you want him to come down for a medical?'" But what is the point of asking an injured player to sit in a car for seven hours? If Alex Ferguson tells me Andy Cole has an ankle injury I trust that."

The absence of Cole and Campbell prevents Keegan continuing with the two partnerships he particularly wanted to use, Campbell and Martin Keown, Cole and Alan Shearer. Nevertheless, he added: "Peo-

ple say what is the point of the match? There is always a point to an England match. We have the nucleus of a good team sprinkled with stardust and we will take something from this game. A few of these youngsters are going to return as full internationals and they could make a fantastic impression."

Three of the uncapped squad members could start: Emile Heskey or Kevin Phillips will probably play alongside Alan Shearer; Ball or Michael Gray should start on the left; and Carragher or Brown will be included if Keegan, as expected, opts for a 3-5-2 formation. The coach has fond memories

of the Népstadion. In June 1981 he and Trevor Brooking scored the goals that earned England an unexpected World Cup qualifying victory which helped them reach Spain the following year.

As now, it was not a game which had been approached with enthusiasm. He recalled: "I was captain, we had just lost to Switzerland, and I wished I was on holiday rather than playing football. I thought this was no way to spend the summer but we came here - and it was an unbelievable atmosphere because it was the first time Ferenc Puskas had come back (after the 1956 uprising) - and we got the win."



Ronnie O'Sullivan (right) keeps his focus on the way to overcoming Joe Perry 13-8 yesterday and reaching the World Championship quarter-finals

Eric Whitehead

PFA 'snubbed' by French four

BY ALAN NIXON

FOUR OF the top French players in the Premiership have been accused of snubbing the Professional Footballers' Association.

The Arsenal pair of Emmanuel Petit and Patrick Vieira plus Chelsea's Franck Leboeuf and Marcel Desailly were due to receive a special award at Sunday's PFA awards dinner in central London. The players' union had decided to honour them for their achievements last summer, when they helped France win the World Cup.

However, despite a chauffeur-driven car being sent to Hillsborough to pick up the Chelsea pair after their game at Sheffield Wednesday on Sunday, not one of the four turned up.

The Arsenal manager, Arsène Wenger, picked up the award for his compatriots, and said with some embarrassment: "It's not my fault they are not here."

One leading PFA official was more outspoken, saying: "They are just big time. They have treated their fellow pros with contempt." Arsenal's French striker Nicolas Anelka was also missing on the night, and his club-mate Tony Adams had to pick up his Young Player of the Year award. Another Frenchman, Tottenham's David Ginola, was there, though, to collect his Player of the Year award.

Tottenham and the Scottish Premier League club, Motherwell, are discussing an arrange-

ment which could lead to the Lanarkshire club operating as a "nursery" for Spurs, with youngsters from White Hart Lane being sent to Fir Park on extended loan deals.

Nottingham Forest have confirmed that the former Liverpool manager, Roy Evans, has applied to take charge at the City Ground in succession to Ron Atkinson, who is retiring at the end of the season.

Dave Richards has been unanimously appointed chairman of the Premier League. The Sheffield Wednesday chairman had been serving in an acting role following last month's resignation of the former chairman, Sir John Quinton.

Newcastle United have been linked with a £2m move for the Dynamo Kiev defender Oleh Luzhny. Middlesbrough have also been chasing the 30-year-old Ukraine captain.

The referee Mike Dean has reported Bristol City to the Football Association after the violent scenes which marred the end of Saturday's First Division home defeat to Birmingham City. Dean and his two assistants were hit by coins thrown from the home fans' end of the ground as they left the pitch, according to the Wirral official. In another incident, the Birmingham manager Trevor Francis was involved in an altercation with a steward.

O'Sullivan's mood back in the pink

SNOOKER

BY GUY HODGSON
at the Crucible, Sheffield

WITH RONNIE O'SULLIVAN you wonder what is more damaging: the troughs of depression he visits too often or the mood swings that speak of greater confusion. "A troubled talent" seemed too glib a description yesterday.

After he had woo his first-round match at the Embassy World Championship O'Sullivan spoke of the depths that inclined him to give up snooker, but after beating Joe Perry 13-8 yesterday to reach the quarter-finals a blinding brightness appeared to have replaced the impenetrable dark of only a few days before.

"A lot can happen in three or four days," he said. "It's amazing. It really is. Some days you can feel down and others it just comes back and stays with you a while. No doubt it'll go sooner or later but you have to take it while you can."

"I've got most of my troubles out of the way. I had a few off the table at the start of the season but they've been put to bed now. I can look forward to three or four years trouble free."

Which is a psychological U-turn that leaves you wondering whether he was playing games had he not pulled out of two tournaments this season, including November's UK Championship in which he was defending champion, on medical advice. All snooker players get fed up and maybe he hides it less well than his peers, or maybe he is just trying to alleviate the expectation his wonderful skill generates.

For his sake you hope for the best, as indeed O'Sullivan did

yesterday, and on the table at least there was evidence of normality, which in his case is a mixture of barely credible brilliance and errors so crass you wonder whether the same man is holding the cue.

Ahead 9-7 overnight, he had only one substantial break, 72, but nevertheless had enough long pots and kept enough of a grip on his discipline to brush aside Perry, who threatened to repeat his upset of Steve Davis in the first round when level at 6-6.

The last frame was what the third-seeded O'Sullivan should, and probably does, aim for. At 62-9 down the Leodome visited the table three times, the biggest break of which was 35, but by alyng caution and some carefully laid snookers to his more celebrated gifts he soaked it 63-62.

"In spits and spats he looked like he had plenty there," Perry said. "He looked good when he is in full flow but the odd frame he got a bit scrappy. I don't know what it is. Maybe he got bored."

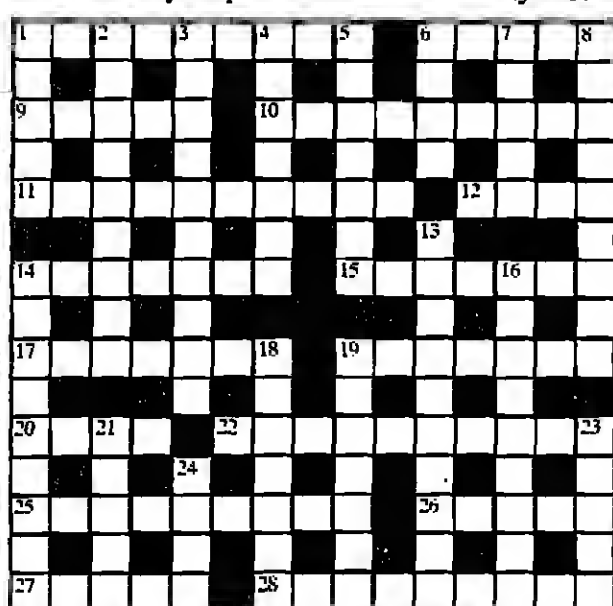
The happy-clappy O'Sullivan would have none of it in his current eagerness to be positive. "The second session was very good for me, believe it or not," he said. "Joe had a 70 and a 100 break but I managed to nick a couple, which was good for me. He could have won that session, so to come out 4-4 left me really pleased."

THE TUESDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3907 Tuesday 27 April

by Aclred

Monday's Solution



MINERAL BARRAGE
U O A A K U H A
S O W N E S K I L D O A T S
Y D N S E H
A M O K N O W H O U S
R U M U S W E R
D O R M A N T D R E S S E N
E M
L A X H U S H F O
Y E L L O W S J A N G
M K G P E A I B
P R I V A T E P R O P E R T Y
I N L E S S E E
C O G N A T E D R E S S I N G

ACROSS

- 1 Doubt American picture will be in Jerusalem (9)
- 6 In park I roved to find Russian ballet (5)
- 9 Times includes name - woman's name (5)
- 10 Success and what it does? Not altogether an accident (3-3-3)
- 11 Story about Bible for us is advantageous (10)
- 12 Spanish woman, one backing religion (4)
- 14 Soak and liar prepared for another court appearance (7)
- 15 An illustration from old flame - enough (7)
- 17 Fabric, first instance thereof, is hard to get (7)
- 19 Duncan, perhaps, is one mending road? (7)
- 20 Water seen in sea

DOWN

- 1 Vehicle in science fiction which can keep you warm in winter (5)
- 2 Yoo visits could lead to a complaint (9)
- 3 Showing lack of concern by flouting cautions? (10)
- 4 This is hard male, out-cast (7)
- 5 Female name that is

- 6 Associated with South African province (7)
- 7 Considerate daughter goes with relatives (4)
- 8 Repeat regarding cricket score (5)
- 9 Country providing venue for debate (9)
- 13 Telling off artist interrupting his exhibition around university (10)
- 14 Telescope is endlessly difficult to deal with (9)
- 16 Copy snap figure (9)
- 18 Still about to eat bread? Mad to be off it! (7)
- 19 The writer to demand one addressed? Really! (1,3,3)
- 21 Taking cap off had drink lifted (5)
- 23 Second inferior track (5)
- 24 Some exotic editors needed to be cooled down (4)

KOSOVO

THE HUMAN CATASTROPHE 4 HOURS AWAY

Exhausted refugees are still pouring into Albania, the poorest country in Europe. Christian Aid is here, helping impoverished local families to accommodate refugees in their homes.

In Macedonia and Montenegro thousands of families have been separated: brother from sister, wife from husband, parent from child. Christian Aid is here, helping in the agonisingly slow process of searching and reuniting.

The Balkan crisis is just 4 hours away, yet threatens to take Europe back half a century. Christian Aid is here. We were here at the beginning. And we'll stay until the crisis is over. Help us now.

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INSIDE
Letter
Leader
Obit
Feature

TUESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • PLUS THE INFORMATION DAILY



Sean Connery is doing his bit in the run-up to the Scottish elections. But where are his fellow artists: the writers and rockers, the movers and moguls who helped create the Scotgeist? They're too busy making deals with Hollywood studios or London publishers to play politics with Holyrood or Westminster. They're staying a step ahead of the game, and they're making it pay. Pat Kane introduces a major series on the cultural life of New Scotland

It takes only a few words to sum up the relationship between arts and politics in a self-governing Scotland: culture brought about the parliament. And, now that it's here, culture is scattering to the four winds. The job, in essence, has been done. Scots voters know quite keenly why they want a polity – because thousands of creative types over the last three decades have kept telling them how distinctive their country is. Not necessarily better or worse, but at least distinctive – thus worth exerting sovereignty over. Now, just a few days before the elections and a few months before a new century, the troops of the Scottish cultural front are demobbing. Who wants to link arms, write prose poems and celebrate the new dawn? It's time to party, make deals and hustle like crazy.

Let me freeze-frame a few scenes from the current whirl, all of them in Glasgow, that will hopefully make the giddy intoxication of this moment obvious. First, the UK premiere of *Orphans*, Peter Mullan's multi-award-winning first movie, at the Atlantic Quay cinema in Glasgow last week. They were all there, the complete firmament of modern Scottish culture – the junkie novelists and the podgy stadium rockers; the local TV moguls and the sitcom matriarchs; the brand-new auteurs and the bland old chancers, all crammed into a brain-frazzling multiplex foyer and networking like it's 1999.

But this is New Scotland networking – and you have to establish that correct mix of prolier-than-thou with insane ambition. The director's big in Cannes, dealing with Hollywood – but he's also a member of the Scottish Socialist Party. You watch these astonishing performers on screen and remind yourself that, a decade ago, half of them used to plead with you to come and see their sub-Brechtian sketches on a wet Monday night.

All night, the talk is of projects and contracts, advances and collaborations – but delivered with that awright-pal-aye-keepin'-busy nonchalance which disguises the fact that they're now cosmopolitan hurrives, through and through. And even though the movie is about pathological working-class Catholics – come on, tell me a "new" Scottish story – it really feels, and looks, like some kind of lost Fellini-Cassavetes collaboration. That is, it's a real movie, a movie-movie, not just some community theatre performance captured on film.

Despite the frantic glugging of cheap champagne, everyone knows the game has been raised a notch or two tonight. The same people have swapped their megaphones for mobile phones, their agit-prop for product pitching. And you know what? They're not the slightest bit guilty about it. Most of them feel they've earned a little schmooze-time.

But this is the movies, after all – and whether in the shadow of Holyrood or of Hollywood, its bullshit always walks tall. For a richer consideration of national character, how about a meeting of five of the best Scottish writers, at a basement do in a Glasgow bookshop, for World Books Day? Surely here you'd expect a degree of forensic soul-searching, some ponderous divinations of the Scotgeist?

Nah. What exercises these writers – Andrew O'Hagan, Janice Galloway, Des Dillon, Don Paterson and Meg Henderson: a real power panel from the Scottish modern canon – is what exercises every other writer in the Western world. That is, distributors, percentages, marketing strategies, the peridy of agents, whether to fear or love the Internet, whether to recommend or discourage creative writing courses...

Each one of them writes out of a deep well of Scottish culture and tradition – but all five are on London publishers, branch offices of the big conglomerates. And selling their properties very widely, thank you; most of them have had their stories optioned by other media. Now, where is the wine?

One last scene: a meeting with John McGrath, the eminence of Scottish political theatre, at a press conference to promote the latest movie he's producing. He's as urbane and articulate as ever, with a shock of white hair flying off his head to the left. But his language becomes most focused when he's talking the language of *The Player*: "The male star's just done a romantic lead to Demi Moore... the female star's alongside Liv Tyler and Ralph Fiennes in their new movie... the US distributor's pre-sales are good, we aim to get worldwide sales at next year's Cannes..."

This is the man who founded the 7:84 theatre company in the radical Seventies, based on the proposition that seven per cent of the population owned 84 per cent of the wealth. McGrath catches me looking a little stunned. "They say all the best capitalists are ex-Communists," he quips.

I could mention many, many more instances like this. In fact, working on the new *Sunday Herald* broadsheet in Glasgow, I am one. The paper exists partly because we know that there's a market opportunity in selling new media to the Scottish bourgeoisie – and the talent is around to make it a good product. But we're also hearing stories about a "creative Scotland" – an enterprising generation of dodgers, divers, duckers and weavers, symbolic analysts in every field – which seems a million miles away from the fast-wavers and folk-warriors of the Seventies and Eighties. The song has changed from nationalism to commercialism in Scottish culture, from "what are we?" to "here we are – buy us".

Are Scots artists such hucksters now because they're secretly admitting their debt to Thatcher? From 1979 to 1997, from the first shrill tones of Thatcher to the last mumbblings of Major, Scottish culture reinvented itself as a defensive moral identity. Her "values" were not our "values" – and on that moral ground,

between social democracy and neo-liberalism, a cohesive cultural tradition was built.

Writers such as James Kelman, Alasdair Gray and William MacLivannay stood there – as did hundreds of other actors, pop singers, TV scriptwriters, poets and celebrity presenters. These people often found themselves literally standing together, too: these were 18 years of shivering on platforms, sharing drum-kits at protest gigs, granting politicians and trade unionists their requested photo opportunities.

Whether declared or not, this was in the classic sense a cultural front: the close association of Scottish arts with anti-Tory politics gave the resistance a lot more poetry and humanity than it otherwise would have had. So when Scots voted in two separate elections for their own parliament in 1997, they were voting for something that was wreathed in word, image and song – something more resonant, that is, than just another level of national administration.

But the thing about words, images and songs in a globalising, informational age – whether they're Scottish or otherwise – is that they often mutate and change; the signs come loose from their referents, the celebrity machine can anoint them at any time. Who wants to keep on grimly defending Scottish identity, when the pager just won't stop huzzing? And who wants to keep hearing about it, when everybody enjoys our local heroes when they go global?

To wit: young Scots actor-chancer becomes the biggest star in the biggest movie of all time; it takes only four years from *Trainspotting* to *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace*. How the hell did that happen? And what kind of "values" – other than the kind of be-kilted cheekiness he displayed on the cover of *Vanity Fair* – does Ewan McGregor take with him into the global firmament?

Probably no other value than a relaxed, mutable Scottishness; and, for most people, creators or consumers, that's quite enough to be going on with in the new Scotland. The bards helped put the bricks in place at Holyrood by building the foundation stones for a modern, confident national identity. But now that the construction cranes are swinging, the time for introspection is over.

Once again, the artists in Scotland are ahead of the politicians, currently enmired in a grim battle of fiscal pennies and geopolitics. The creative types are now interested in Scottish routes, rather than Scottish roots. How do we take these distinctive structures of feeling into the world, in their agenda; what audiences, what markets, what collaborators, what money-men do we need to make good work happen here?

If this sounds as though Scottish culture is already shooting beyond the confines of the British state, implicitly presuming that it may have a global impact, then you're hearing correctly. In that sense, independence has already been declared in this country. But, as is usual in Scotland, the imagination always anticipates the political nation.

The writer is associate editor of the *Sunday Herald* and one half of the group Hue and Cry.

INSIDE

The visual arts: Suzanna Beaumont on the glories and dangers of Scotland's past
Page 11

TOMORROW

Paul Taylor on nationalism and the new wave of Scottish playwrights

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						MEDIA

KOSOVO AND BALKAN CRISIS

PLEASE ACT NOW

It's a month since the conflict in Kosovo escalated and an ever growing number of refugees desperately need emergency assistance: food, shelter and clothing simply to survive.

It's a crisis of horrendous proportions and Y Care, in conjunction with church organisations, is helping to relieve the suffering through an emergency feeding and assistance programme to provide nutrition, shelter and clothing to refugees in Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo and other parts of FR Yugoslavia.

Please help us help these desperate people survive the coming weeks and months.

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Media aid for Serbs

Sir: I am concerned that the press and broadcasting media are giving aid and comfort to the Serb enemy in the present war. I imagine this is not intended, but the fact that Serb propaganda reaches us so constantly via correspondents in Belgrade and elsewhere reflects, I believe, an inability on the part of the media to understand the necessary change of gear they must make in a shooting war.

It is a great strength in our country and other democracies normally to listen to all points of view in matters of contention. But in war, stricter rules must apply. Decisions have been made, whether the media like or not, to commit men to battle. Everything possible should be done to support the men at war and every means used to avoid undermining the morale of those in battle and those "who only stand and wait". The media need to descend a little from their Olympian heights of detachment.

In the 1939-45 war, Defence of the Realm Acts prevented the publication of news tending to aid and support Hitler. If such measures had not been taken, public morale would have been sapped over the six years of the conflict, as it was sapped in America in the Vietnam War. The media now should learn the lesson, as the present war and its aftermath drag on through the years - yes, years - that they have a vital part to play if we and our Nato allies are to come out of it successfully.

DENYS WHATMORE
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

Sir: My stomach churned when I saw television pictures of Tony Blair, Robin Cook and George Robertson sitting down to a sumptuous celebratory banquet as the bombs rained down on Serbia and the refugees shivered in their tents. Blair and the others were celebrating 49 years and 11 months of Nato success and one month of unpardonable folly.

Nato has got the military tactics wrong, the politics wrong and the refugee crisis wrong - with 600,000 refugees, Britain has admitted 159. This is shameful. Polly compounds folly. Give up now, Tony, before you get us into an even bigger mess. Let the UN sort it out now.

Dr ALEX B GARDINER
Glasgow

Sir: Referring to Kosovo, Fergal Keane asks: "Do you sit back and do nothing when you have the power and scope to do something?" (Comment, 24 April). Nato has "done something" in Kosovo - it has escalated a government-terrorist conflict into a major catastrophe.

The text of the Rambouillet plan shows the level of diplomacy that took place. Rambouillet insisted on a Nato force, not an "international" one. It also insisted that Nato have free unrestricted access to the whole of Yugoslavia, not just Kosovo (article 8) including free access to airspace, roads, ports and other facilities. It would also grant Nato complete immunity from legal processes for any acts it may commit during the occupation (article 6).

When, hardly surprisingly, Yugoslavia refused to sign this agreement, our leaders decided that bombing must commence and so must the predictable humanitarian catastrophe. Clearly, this is not diplomacy, it is politics by ultimatum.

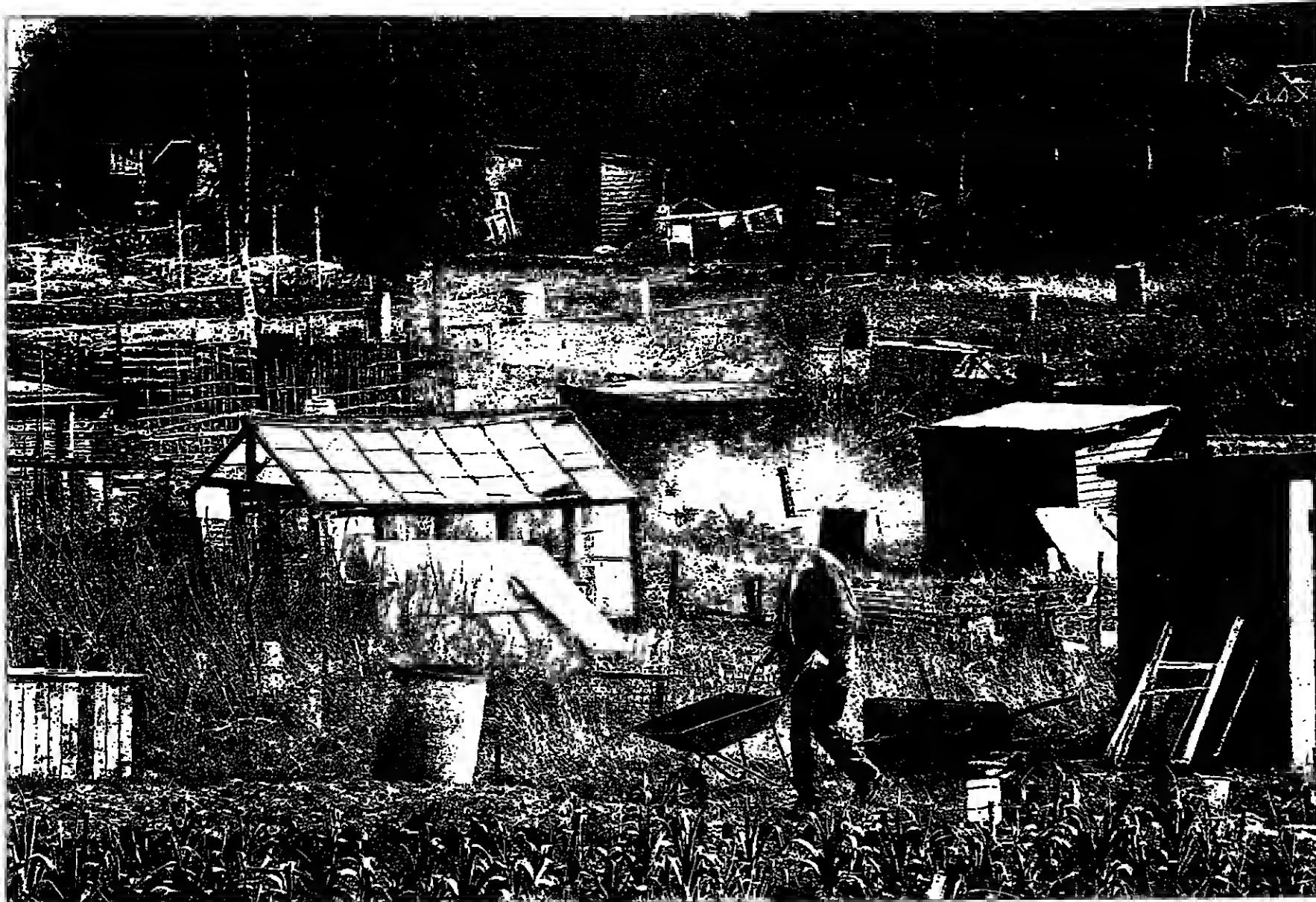
We can "do something". We can exhaust all diplomatic and peaceful means to resolve a conflict before we escalate the violence. A glance at Rambouillet gives the lie to the claim that "talking hasn't worked".

GLENN BASSETT
Enfield, Middlesex

Sir: Milosevic's war aims are very simple: to eradicate the Albanian population of Kosovo and then to hide the evidence. Our war aims should be equally simple: to stop this happening, then bring the guilty to trial. Yes, we have made mistakes and yes there will be tragic accidents but let us not

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



City Allotments No 2: The Uplands allotments in Handsworth, Birmingham, are the largest in Europe

Andrew Fox

forget exactly what is at stake: the future of an entire population.

Air strikes are not enough. A ground force must be sent in. It should be large, heavily armed and given orders to respond to any resistance with equal force. Such action is, I believe, justified and essential if we are to save those Kosovans left in Kosovo.

We could do nothing to save the Jews in 1939. Today we can save the Albanians.

STEPHEN RUTHERFORD
Hitchin, Hertfordshire

Sir: We must of course do all we can to help the refugees fleeing from Kosovo, but I do not believe a land incursion into Kosovo and/or Serbia would be either quick or successful. We need only to look at Northern Ireland to realise that racial, ethnic or religious conflicts cannot be solved by either partition or martial law.

Education is the key. Until all parties realise that they have far more in common than they have dividing them, tensions will always arise. In this instance one of the great forces for good could be the European Union. The carrot of EU membership and the resulting aid packages and trade benefits should be dangled in front of Serbia, on condition that they reverse the ethnic cleansing.

ANDREW BUCHAN
Glasgow

Carless rapture

Sir: I gave up owning a car four years ago. I would like to inform Heon Stevenson (letter, 24 April) that I am not a bachelor with a quiet settled life and few out-of-London social contacts but a middle-aged mother with four teenage children, a very busy working and social life and many out-of-London friends.

I and my children manage perfectly well. We travel on public transport, use taxis - for which I rarely pay more than £3 or £4 a ride - and I no longer have the stress of traffic jams and parking in London. When I go out I can drink without worrying, and I do not have to ensure that I have change for parking meters every time I leave the house.

When I go to the supermarket I get a taxi home for little more than the cost of the car park, the taxi driver loads my shopping into the cab, unloads it and delivers it to my front door, and I am home in less time than it used to take me to collect my car from the multi-storey car park.

I have discovered public transport routes that I didn't know existed. I have found that most shops will deliver large items for nothing or for a nominal fee.

If I visit friends out of London who are inaccessible by public transport, I hire a car at a cost of £30 for a day or £60 for a weekend. Getting rid of my car has saved me an enormous amount of hassle, stress and money. I wish I could

persuade more car owners in London to do the same.

BRIDGET SHIELD
London SE18

A 'crank' writes

Sir: The tone of Jane Bussman's article, "Can you feel the heat?" (22 April) would suggest that she, in a 13th-century setting, would recommend burning at the stake for anyone who had the feebleness of mind to believe in the concept of electricity - something beneficial which can't be seen, touched or easily explained to one who finds the idea unlikely.

Many so-called "New Age" techniques and therapies are indeed centuries old, feng shui being a classic example. Sure, some marketing people have a nasty habit of achieving product sales on the back of emotional angst. This is an unfortunate reality which needs to be balanced against the many people who derive enormous benefit from "alternative" therapies, strategies and beliefs.

It is also unfortunate that the author casts ridicule on those who

wish to investigate things that she chooses not to begin to understand. Perhaps the article was commissioned as a fun piece which would generate an amusing reaction from "New Age cranks" - easy to write, with some "back of an envelope" research and a pinch of prejudice thrown in.

However, was the author wise both to castigate her gender, and to give credence to a Class A drug in under 600 words?

RICK MARTIN
Newcastle upon Tyne

No contest at polls

Sir: While all of the interest has been focused on who everybody is going to vote for in the Assembly elections, a vital issue of the local elections in Wales has been ignored.

In many unitary authorities in Wales, councillors have already been elected unopposed. This means that some people will have no voice on the local government elections. They won't be able to say whether they want more spent on schools or less spent on roads. They won't be able to praise or

condemn their local councillor's record. They won't be able to do this because unopposed councillors don't have to face an election.

Last year the Welsh office considered the large number of unopposed wards in Wales at election time. They ignored electoral methods of dealing with the problems such as proportional representation. Instead they concluded that all political parties would have to try harder to contest more wards. A year later, a large number of people still don't have a vote in the local elections. Isn't it time to reconsider another electoral system that ends unopposed wards and brings more accountability to local government?

RUSSELL DEACON
Senior Lecturer
UWIC Business School
Cardiff

Co-op fit for battle

Sir: It is interesting to know that the American and South African financiers seeking to "buy" the Co-op (report, 26 April) think that Co-op members are worth only £2,000 each.

Members of the Co-operative Movement are not cheap cans of beans to be bought and sold by City slickers. The Co-ops constitute a social and economic movement clustered around distinct principles which it has recently been reviving. This largely explains why the last ill-fated bid mounted by Andrew Regan, Hambros Bank and their collaborators inside the movement left them all flat on their faces. They underestimated the Co-op's determination to fight for its survival.

That threat also helped to rally Co-op members to a degree not seen for generations. As a consequence, the Co-op is now better prepared to repel carpetbaggers and many members up and down the country would relish the fight.

NIGEL TODD
Newcastle upon Tyne

IN BRIEF

defence force, as the full text of the amendment makes clear: "A well regulated Militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

BERNARD A FAY
Marbella, Spain

Sir: As an American living in England, and for several weeks each year in France, I assure Sue Arnold (Comment, 24 April) that the French do talk to me often and at length. In fact, they talk to me more than I have ever experienced from either British or American neighbours. The 35,000 English-speaking expatriates living in South-western France find that

their French neighbours are receptive, friendly and civilised. If Sue Arnold prefers Italian food, Indian mythology and Irish friends that is fine, but she need not indulge in French-bashing.

A J VLITROS
Pellegrue, France

Sir: How can anyone say that the bigots sitting in the unelected House of Lords are in touch with the electorate (letter, 24 April)? An independent poll showed that 66 per cent of the British public supported an equal age of consent. If we have learnt anything at all from the events of the last few months it is that prejudice must not be tolerated.

GARY WILLIAMS
Poole, Dorset

'Generation of Vipers' and other forgotten classics

AT THE Bath Book Fair on Saturday I was struck by the plethora of books that you can't imagine anyone ever reading again. I dipped into a collection of letters by W H Hudson and found him saying that he had just been forced to read a book by Mrs Humphrey Ward and, although it was not as bad as Robert Elsmere, he never again wanted to read anything by her (I did once read the very same Robert Elsmere, a novel about a clergyman losing his faith, because I liked the binding, and Hudson is right - it was terrible. I imagine that all novels about clergymen having crises of doubt are awful, but this was really hard work).

As I put the W H Hudson back, wondering whether anyone would ever again read him, let alone Mrs Humphrey Ward (was she the last

female writer doomed to be known by her husband's name?), I found my mind wandering back to the books I was devouring in New York in the late Fifties and wondering if anyone else had read any of them since then. The summer of 1959 was the first bit of my life I had spent unprotected - I had just left school and had nine months to wait to go to university, so I was packed off to stay with an aunt in the Bahamas, after which I made my way to New York, got a job and more or less looked after myself.

One of the publishing successes of the season was a book about the underside of New York called *Subways Are For Sleeping*, which I bought in order to acquaint myself with the great city of which I was a resident, if only temporarily at the YMCA in West 23rd St. In fact, it

wasn't really about the rough side of New York at all. It was about a dozen or so eccentrics living in Manhattan whom the author had encountered and who seemed worth writing about. There was one man, for example, who always lived in other people's houses. House-sitting is not unusual these days, but back then it must have been very odd to find a man who spent his whole life living in and looking after places when the owners had gone on holiday.

There was also a tramp who sat all day down on the Battery watching the boats come and go and became such an expert on the currents and tides that he became employed full-time by the New York Harbour Authority.

But the man I liked the sound of best was the millionaire who de-



MILES KINGTON

Few people now remember the great Ring Lardner Sr. Does anyone at all remember Junior?

cided that the best way to spend his money was not in excess but in small, if expensive, whims. One of

these consisted in going out after midnight with a bag of golf clubs and a bag of golf balls and hitting full-blooded golf shots down the middle of a dark and deserted Sixth Avenue. Occasionally the rich golfer would hear the far-off tinkle of breaking glass as his ball strayed off course to hit a window, and he would know that he had to iron out his slice again...

Well, that was *Subways Are For Sleeping*. On a more literary level it was also the time of the emerging Beat poets, so I sometimes hung around Greenwich Village looking for Jack Kerouac or Allen Ginsberg or Gregory Corso. I preferred the writings of Corso, because I thought they were not only funnier but more juvenile, and I still have somewhere a copy of his *The Happy Birthday of Death*, which I

bought that year. I never did see any of them in the flesh, but I did see *Pull My Daisy*, the short Beat Generation film they had just made together, which was showing in the Bleecker Street cinema in the Village, and I can safely say that it was the worst film I ever saw in my life.

Actually, a book which had a far bigger impact on me than all the Beat stuff was *Generation of Vipers* by Philip Wylie, an iconoclastic writer who thought we kids should think for ourselves and not take the old baloney handed down by the grown-ups; and although I can't remember anything he said, I can clearly remember the cold-water-in-the-face effect of his hectoring.

And I still clearly recall the book I bought to take with me on the ship home (yes, you still had scheduled transatlantic crossings then). The

Access to justice

Sir: The Access to Justice Bill is now being scrutinised by a Commons standing committee. MPs have a brief opportunity to improve this highly flawed measure. The opportunity must not be wasted. As currently drafted, the Bill will remove legal aid assistance from thousands of our most vulnerable people and widen the gap between the haves and have-nots.

Where is this Government's commitment to equality? Where is its commitment to end social exclusion? A new clause to guarantee non-discrimination and an "equal footing" for all before the law has already been dismissed as a "gimmick" by the Lord Chancellor. The Government has also flouted its own guidelines of November 1998 which require all measures to be screened for their potential to discriminate, both directly and indirectly. The Bill is in its later stages in Parliament, yet no assessment of its equal-treatment impact has appeared.

The Lord Chancellor has given his Bill a bold and unambiguous name. Only if he accepts a number of important amendments in the coming weeks will the substance of the Bill match the title.

MICHAEL MATTHEWS
President
The Law Society
London WC2

Care in crisis

Sir: Short termism - getting the highest amount of care for the smallest amount of money - will mean a shortage of care facilities in the future ("Care homes lose battle to survive in funding crisis", 21 April).

As homes are forced out of business the elderly have to be looked after somewhere, by someone. The public sector has demonstrated that it cannot provide care at the fees that it pays the independent sector. Typically, local authority residential homes cost about £100 per week more than the private sector.

Like farmers, we have complained for years that we are being inadequately compensated for our efforts and, like farmers, we have a visible capital asset which means that no one believes us.

Our fee income has fallen significantly below the rate of inflation for nine years in a row. Both what we earn and what we spend it on are determined by statutory bodies. Stifling over-regulation and disappearing margins are leading many operators to consider giving up. If the Government cannot or will not allow local authority funds for the reasonable cost of independent sector care, then statutory provision will have to be made.

ANDREW MAKIN
Yorkshire Branch Secretary
Registered Nursing Home
Association
Keighley, West Yorkshire

Sir: If there has been a survey into the extent of age discrimination in the NHS (letter, 21 April), perhaps there should also be a survey into what old people expect. As a 75-year-old, I expect priority to be given to those younger than myself. I hope that those with their lives ahead of them and those with parental and occupational responsibilities will always have their needs preferred.

HUMPHREY KAY
Peasey, Wiltshire

As she is spoke

Sir: It is impossible to set standards of pronunciation (letters, 24, 26 April). Languages are changing all the time, mainly as a result of natural human laziness when speaking them. Look at how Latin has "deteriorated" into Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and French.

JULIEN EVANS
Chesham, Buckinghamshire

Sir: Whatever happens, do not let the BBC be browbeaten into stopping Penny Tanter from saying "particularly". It's the best bit of the weather forecast.

DAVID BUTLAND
Bradford, West Yorkshire

Britain's response to Balkan r

The a not r

THE INDEPENDENT

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Britain's inadequate response to the Balkan refugee crisis

THE ARRIVAL of 161 Kosovar refugees at Leeds airport is a welcome start. But it is still a very long way from the Government's promise of taking in 10,000 refugees from the Balkan conflict. This airlift from Macedonia must be swiftly followed by others; whereas Germany has already taken nearly 10,000 refugees, Britain's efforts so far have been grossly inadequate.

Germany's speed in taking in refugees is not just a response to its misdeeds in the Second World War. The Germans recognise that the Kosovar people have suffered murder, rape, arson and exile, and that 600,000 of them are still living in appalling conditions in overcrowded camps. Britain and France have been slow to take in Kosovars, in part because of specious arguments that sheltering refugees furthers the desire of the Yugoslav regime to expel Kosovo's Albanian-speaking majority.

Giving refuge to the most vulnerable of the Kosovars is the right thing to do. By removing 100,000 people from the immediate vicinity of the conflict, the international community eases the pressure on poor countries with over-stretched resources. Furthermore, the relations between Slavs and Albanians in Montenegro and, particularly, Macedonia are already difficult. It would be disastrous to both Nato's tactics and its aims if these countries collapsed under the human tidal wave that has hit their shores. And with a ground war becoming increasingly likely, people must be removed from the borders of Kosovo where they run a risk of being caught up in the conflict.

Many of the Kosovars who will come to the UK will be desperate to return to the mountains and valleys of their own country. They will want to return not just from sentiment but also to resume possession of their farmland.

However, there is no need to deny that some of those who come to this country will never leave. Some will have nothing to return to in Kosovo: their families will have been killed; their livelihoods will have been destroyed.

The Kosovars who come here will form connections in Britain. Men and women will fall in love. Kosovars educated here will become integrated into the local population. Britain is already a multi-ethnic and, in the main, tolerant society. There is every reason to believe that a European community, albeit a Muslim one, should fit in easily in this country.

British people have shown, through their generous donations to this newspaper and other appeals for charity, that they are keen to help the refugees. For those who do want to return - and they may well be the majority - the best solution is to retake Kosovo as quickly as possible, whatever it takes. Although Britain has not caused the crisis, it has a moral responsibility to help solve it. There is no reason why we should not take twice 10,000.



Access to justice for those who need it

A CIVILISED society governed by the rule of law is impossible without law being available to all. That is why the current spat between Lord Irvine, the Lord Chancellor, and the Law Society, the solicitors' governing body, is more than an amusing side-show. The immediate cause of the row is a set of advertisements in national newspapers. The Law Society suggests that the Access to Justice Bill will restrict legal aid for victims of negligent employers, domestic violence, housing disrepair and police discrimination. The Lord Chancellor is so infuriated that he has asked the Law Society to remove the advertisements. That is going too far. The Law Society should be allowed to express its opinion. But he is right to press ahead with his wider campaign to reform legal aid. The Bill attempts to tackle the increase

in the cost of legal aid by differentiating between help for criminal and civil cases. People accused of a crime will still be entitled to legal aid after means tests. This will not be true of litigants in civil cases unless they are involved in either a family law case or a personal injury case.

Vexatious litigants should not expect taxpayers to fund their obsession. By encouraging the development of "no win, no fee" arrangements for civil matters, the Government forces solicitors to take a hard look at a case before taking it on and using up the precious time of the courts.

If the Bill is enacted, it will be operating in an altered legal environment. As of this week the recommendations of the Woolf Report will be introducing the biggest changes to the civil legal system in a generation. Through fines and the removal of legal obscurities, the new procedures encourage litigants and solicitors to settle cases as speedily as possible. The less time and money that is wasted on trivial cases, the more money will be available for ensuring that everyone who needs access to justice gets it.

Are we being served?

"AND THE Belgians are playing the joker!" It's a long time since these words were heard on television, during the final edition of *It's a Knockout*, in 1982. That Channel 5 is exhuming this old format, complete with its presenter Stuart Hall, is an unlikely event in itself, marking the moment when British TV went terminal. But it also comes at a time when the BBC is so short of ideas for sitcoms that it is bringing Victor Meldrew out of retirement for a new series. Something has clearly gone wrong with the creative dynamo of those in charge when all the broadcasters' schedules are stuffed with shows that are either Seventies repeats, such as *Are You Being Served?*, Seventies revivals such as, heaven help us, *Jim Davidson's Generation Game*, or Seventies survivors such as *Emmerdale* and *Lost of the Summer Wine*. It may be too early to report the strange death of British TV, but it seems to have one foot in the grave.

The amazing thing is that there is not more violence on our streets

YESTERDAY I typed "nail bomb" into the box in the search engine, and waited a while for the invisible *idiot savant* to scan a trillion Internet files. Ten seconds later I had captured two dozen pages of references to nail bombs from all over the world, and had been plunged, eyes first, into what many would regard as a modern nightmare.

The first site belonged to a heavy metal band, presumably American, called Nail Bomb. You may not recall that their two extant albums are called *Point Blank* and *Proud to Commit Commercial Suicide*. On another music site, Nail Bomb's wares were offered for sale, along with such feelgood items as *Napalm Death's Fear, Emptiness, Despair*, *Cradle of Filth's Sodomizing The Virgin Vamps*, and *Skeleton of God's Urine Garden*. So this is what young Euan Blair and Prince William are listening to...

The next series of sites belonged to news operations and campaign groups, and simply detailed attacks with nail bombs across the globe. There were fatal nail-bomb attacks in Paris in 1995, that were then linked to the conflict in the French colony of Algeria. It was a nail bomb that killed two people at the start of the Atlanta Olympics in 1996. Also in the US, nail bombs have been used against abortion clinics.

Over here, nine years ago, a pro-hunting activist planted one under his own car to try to discredit hunt saboteurs - and got a short prison sentence for his folly. Less well known has been the recent series of nail-bomb


explosions in squares and market-places in China, planted, it is conjectured, by opponents of the government. In fact, nail bombs are going off all over the place.

As it happens, as from this morning I also know how to make one of these simple and cheap devices. Following a string of connections (or "threads") from my original enquiry, I eventually fetched up at a site (which I will not name, lest this article falls into the hands of a seriously unimaginative would-be terrorist) which explained in patient detail how the same bombs as those used in Brixton and Brick Lane may be assembled and primed. The circuitry is laid out in easy-to-follow diagrams, and little dos and don'ts are helpfully provided, and all with a deprecatory humour worthy of Alan Titchmarsh.

The site's guardian, however, is grumpier than our Alan when approached directly. He surely must be a bit welcome e-mails that will contribute positively to the vast amount of useful information he has available. But he is clearly fed up with all the boasting.

"I do not care what you did with this knowledge," he says wearily. "In fact, if you are writing to tell me what you did to an enemy, or your high school, I think you are an idiot. Why? Because you just committed an illegal act and you are bragging about it." And he adds a health warning: "Most of these text files can kill YOU. If you try these items, and kill yourself? Good. Darwinism is not a bullshit concept."

I imagine this chap to be a Dennis Hopper lookalike: a tired, grizzled old



DAVID AARONOVITCH
If the Chinese police do not have sufficient powers to prevent nail bombs, how can our police force do better?

Sixties anarchist in a Montana cabin, who wants his knowledge of bombs to be put to socially positive use. He has no time for adolescent wannabe terrorists with silly names. So he would not be impressed with the so-called White Wolves, one of a collection of minuscule (and quite possibly unmembered) organisations claiming responsibility for the London explosions. Their risible, stencilled statement threatening all Jews and non-whites hardly needed the "Hail Britannia" at the end to remind us how pathetic and unserious these people are.

And yet we feel very vulnerable, don't we? Sitting in the window of a cafe in North London yesterday, I suddenly wondered who was next. The claim from a Jewish community spokesman that "the community is on the alert" made me wonder whether

plain-clothes battalions of the Israeli army had been drafted into Golders Green for the duration. It was a comforting thought. But not for the columnist who yesterday thundered that these bombings were a disgrace, that one was too many and that two looked suspiciously like carelessness. "If the police cannot stop them, and stop them now," he fulminated, "just why exactly do we have a Metropolitan police force?"

And here we should begin to take hold of ourselves. If the Chinese police do not have sufficient powers to prevent such attacks, how on earth can we demand of our police force that they do better? We live in a free and open society. People are allowed to wander the streets with sports bags, drive our streets with trunks full of God knows what, sit in their attics experimenting with chemicals, and go to funny little meetings with other strange people.

There are more than 58 million of us in this country. As your night train sweeps through town and countryside, it passes thousands of lighted windows. There are miles after miles of kitchens and lounges and garages, and in all of them live or potter our fellow citizens, with their various loves, discontents, ambitions and hatreds. Not only will some of them be deranged, but many will also be seekers after some sort of glory. After all, what impulse is it that demands that you impersonate a paedophile simply so that you can appear on the *Kirby show*? Many of us are desperate to be noticed. Few of us have newspaper columns to help us do it.

So, item one: information on how to make bombs, very easily available.

Item two: millions of people in the country, lots of them mad.

Item three: a great and growing need for celebrity, however it is earned.

And, item four: an open society in which it is relatively easy to pass unhindered by the authorities.

Put like this, what is truly extraordinary is the fact that so few bombs explode on our streets, in our schools or outside our public buildings. This is no consolation for those injured in such attacks, and for the relatives of those who will doubtless be killed if the bombers are not found. But the truth is probably that these blasts have been perpetrated by the same gang of tattooed loonies who have always been there. There is no groundswell of support for the BNP, no far-right mass rallies. I detect no lingering support for the bombers.

In other words, I don't believe that these bombs tell us anything we did not already know. Except, perhaps, about the strangely peripatetic life of an unattended sports bag in a city street. This is not a plea for everyone to relax his or her vigilance; there is a bad, sad bastard out there who needs to be caught. But I really don't think the explosions should cause another bout of hand-wringing, pessimism and despair about our society.

For all our problems, for all that one of our most popular broadcasters was brutally killed yesterday, this remains a tolerant and peaceful country. Two explosions do not make a dystopia.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The more popular she was, the more ordinary she was with us."
Jennie Bond, BBC presenter, reacting to the death of her colleague Jill Dando

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Peace is indivisible."
Mazim Litvinov, Soviet diplomat



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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
International comment on the celebration of Nato's 50th anniversary

THE EVOLUTION of the alliance's strategy reflects the change of United States security strategy. Nato, which used to be Washington's main tool to confront the Soviet Union during the Cold War era, was chosen as a new weapon by the United States to dominate Europe and even the world. The United States, the only superpower, vowed to lead the world

in the next century, attempting to impose American values and the American political system on others. The analysts also believe that the United States' strategy to build a mono-polar world order goes against the historical trend of the world's multi-polarization and is certain to fail.

China Daily

NATO MUST find a way to end the war in Yugoslavia successfully. Europe is ending the

THE ALLIANCE concluded what should have been a triumphal anniversary celebration by declaring that it was united on the subject of a blockade, when it was clearly nothing of the sort. Nato announced it would be prepared to take action in support of democracy outside its own region. It would be a disaster if its search for a post-Cold War role became a return to conflict with its former Cold War enemy.

The Age, Australia

NATO is a step away from having to plan its own wake. Yugoslavia is winning the war in Kosovo thanks to Nato's incompetence and irresolution. If Nato cannot defeat Yugoslavia - and if Slobodan Milosevic does not lose, he wins - why does the alliance at all? Nato has done much good, and was an essential ingredient in the defeat of communism, but nostalgia is no reason to keep decrepitude alive.

Boston Herald, US

PANDORA

EWAN MCGREGOR (pictured), top liner of the big summer *Star Wars* prequel, doesn't go to Knuckle Junction. "I can talk a good fight but I'd run a mile if one ever happened," McGregor says. "I had a fight once but I just got punched to the floor and that was it." The refreshingly unsterotypical Scot may have to make some attitude adjustments when the much-hyped movie eventually hits our cinemas. "Suddenly all these people are coming up to me with posters to sign," the pacific thespian says. "May the Force be with you." People have actually said that to me... I think that's quite batty."

SMILEY FACES were hoping that the success of the *Locke* negotiations would foreshadow a similar deal to bring PC Yvonne Fletcher's killers to justice. Don't hold your breath. Pandora sees liability issues and a ballistics report roadblocking the suspected shooter's surrender.

WINNING TEAM. Now that first-division champions Sunderland have booked their premiership berth for next season, is the manager Peter Reid thinking differently to avoid the Yo-Yo syndrome that has pushed Nottingham Forest to the drop? Reid dummied parliamentary lobby journalists when he arrived for their morning briefing this week with Alastair Campbell (wheels down from Washington DC) and Fraser Kemp (Lab. Houghton and Washington East). The simian manager looked and learnt as Campbell and the hacks tackled the Kosovo war. Next stop for the Sunderland boss was Downing Street. Perhaps this visit down south will inspire the former England star to add more strength and depth to his squad - the premiership is a league of its own.

TODAY'S SLANG GUIDE is to Asian youth phrases. Chirping: flirting with the aim of pulling and subsequently plugging. Pudi (among Muslim kids) or fludhi (to their Hindu counterparts): beautiful girls. Benchod: insult implying the other party is incestuous. Is it (pronounced izit) used as an

acknowledgement of a definitive statement, equivalent to "Oh really" - of innit, all-purpose intensifier (eg "This place is the dogs, innit"). Having a session: smacking cannabis. Munch: takeaway food. Chat to you later: speak to you soon.

ELLEN BARKIN stars in the appropriately titled *Drop Dead Gorgeous*, a scathing comedy about American beauty pageants - and Pandora's spies say Barkin, one of the smartest players in La-La land, steals the film. Alas, someone's stolen her boyfriend, Ron Perelman, the billionaire chairman of Revlon, was spotted booking up with a well-upholstered cable TV star. The man must have rocks in his head.

TOM JONES was asked by connections of a 104-year-old Watford fan to come and sing at her birthday party. The 60-year-old singer, who looked as though he'd put on a pound or two at Momo's Arabesque bash earlier this month, declined the gig on health grounds. Pandora wishes the old roudie well. FYI (For Your Information): Last time we looked, Uncle Tom's taste in femmes ran in rather younger laydeez.

A DELICIOUS moment during Donald Macintyre's Peter Mandelson documentary earlier this week. Mandy, it revealed, loves Andy... Andy Williams, the singer? Pandoraphiles will want to go buy the book (*Mandelson, the Biography*, HarperCollins) on this one.

LAST WORD on Hugh Hefner's 73rd birthday party at his Holmby Hills hideaway. Hefner complained he felt faint and bunny people hit the panic button. A Hefner mouth-piece now dismisses the incident as a "moment" and blames it on the Playboy bunny drinking on an empty stomach. She also says that Hef is seeing three women - conveniently named Mandy, Sandy and Brandy. A case of too much on his plate but not enough in his belly?

Contact Pandora by e-mail: pandora@independent.co.uk

My place in Welsh history - for £150



TOM DAVIES

It is rather wonderful being the leader of a great political party - and I recommend it to all

AND SO I have finally done it. After years of dreaming about it and even more years writing about it as a journalist, I have finally formed my own party, the Celtic Alliance, and will be presenting myself and its radical new policies for promoting Welsh arts and sport before the great Welsh electorate in the forthcoming Assembly election.

It was all surprisingly easy, really. I rang up a nice man called Ron in Companies House about a month ago and registered my party for a mere £150. Ron wanted to know if I had a logo, so I found a nice Celtic cross floating around the Internet and gave him that.

It is really rather wonderful being a leader of a great political party, and I recommend it to all. My details have been registered on some website, and newspapers such as *The Scotsman* ring and ask me how many candidates I'm fielding in Scotland. The BBC political unit wanted to know how many candidates I'm fielding in Europe.

Only this morning Bristol University wrote to me wanting a copy of my election brochure, which they want to house in their collection of

election addresses, which "dates back to the 1890s and has proved to be of great use to researchers and members of the public". Ah so, a place in political history already. And all for £150.

Then I had to put in my nomination papers, all signed by my wife, the Celtic Alliance secretary, complete with a £500 deposit which I am extremely keen to get back. Again

they were all very nice to me in County Hall, but you could see they were trying hard not to laugh when they saw my eyebrows disappear into my hairline on being told that there were no fewer than 40,000 properties in my constituency.

Clearly I then had to order some 40,000 brochures from my next-door neighbour, who just happens to be a printer, and they are now piled up in 20 boxes in my hallway. They cost me about £1,400, but there is only the slimmest chance of them all getting delivered.

Every party needs a rosette, so another neighbour, the journalist and quilter Judy Stephens, ran me up a rosette the size of a large pizza, complete with my Celtic cross logo. The trouble is, when I've got it on and am out on my bike, I'm not sure if I'm canvassing or about to take off on a new crusade to win back the Holy Land from the infidel.

The bicycle is crucial to my media image of the little man fighting the big system. We at the Celtic Alliance are now frantically trying to set up a photograph of me on my bicycle looking up at Alun Michael's hi-tech battle bus.

The battle is not an easy one since my parliamentary constituency of Cardiff South and Penarth - which is also Alun Michael's constituency - is as strange as they come, stretching from the chintzy, well-heeled seaside town of Penarth through the wilder suburbs of Grangetown and Tiger Bay and the grim, working-class terraces of Splott, to the sprawling estates of Llanrumney and Trowbridge.

In some parts the residents are clearly worried about Molotov cocktails, since it is all but impossible to get anything through the letterboxes. I put one of my brochures into the hands of a four-year-old and told him to give it to his mother. This mite, who barely reached up to my knee, simply glared at me and told me to go and have sexual relations with myself. Or words to that effect.

There is a high level of apathy in these elections, but I am hoping the Celtic Alliance will break through all this with its bold and radical policies for reviving the artistic and sporting heart of Wales.

All Welsh artists have now been silenced, but I'm telling them that the Celtic Alliance wants to set up

a national publishing house to get our writers up and running again; a fully funded film centre so that we can start producing feature films; and a national theatre so we can get our playwrights working and our stars to come home. Only by means of a fully revived artistic life will we ever be able to form a national identity, I say.

The Celtic Alliance also has plans for the state to invest in Wales's three league soccer teams until they reach the Premiership. All this would be much more important to our psychological well-being, I say into my megaphone, than our Welsh National Opera receiving £7m a year in arts subsidy so that its performers may sing in Italian or Czech to the chosen few.

How all this will play in the mean streets of Tiger Bay is anyone's guess. The mind of Cardiff South and Penarth is extremely difficult to read, but I am going to give it all a good punt and am extremely hopeful that the man in County Hall will at least give me my £500 deposit back. But I'll probably get a good book out of it in the end. I will call it *Gangrene Was My Valley*.

We should not rule out a peaceful solution in Kosovo



ANATOL LIEVEN

We need to reach a compromise - not with Milosevic but with the Serbian nation

IF NATO leaders seriously believe that the air campaign to date has impressed the rest of the world, then they are deceiving themselves. The price of maintaining alliance unity over Kosovo has been to make the waging of effective war impossible. Not only is a ground offensive blocked by several member states and powerful forces in the US, but a mixture of the terrain and Nato governments' fear of casualties among their pilots has so far reduced the bombing campaign against Yugoslav forces in Kosovo itself to a joke. This humiliating failure is undoing many of the positive effects of the 1991 victory in the Gulf on our potential enemies around the world.

We are therefore being pushed inexorably in the direction of a ground offensive - probably not by the whole of Nato, but a "coalition of the willing" involving the US and UK. Despite all its risks, a ground war would still be better than an air campaign lasting months and not just because of the effects on Serbia - strange though it may be to mention these under the circumstances.

Months of bombing would leave an economically ruined, embittered Serbia as a source of anti-Western terrorism and destabilisation. For all foreseeable time Serbia would be a "rogue state". The West may now be promising some kind of Marshall plan for the Balkans, but it is highly unlikely that any conceivable post-war Serbian government would qualify, given the furious anti-Western feelings it will represent.

However, the dangers of a ground war are by now well-known. Attacking from Albania involves formidable logistical obstacles. An offensive via Macedonia or Montenegro looks politically impossible at present. Attacking from the north (assuming that Hungary and/or Bosnia were to agree) is militarily

much simpler but would involve the occupation of the whole of Serbia, with everything that would mean for terrorism, partisan warfare and political quagmire.

Before moving towards a ground war, we therefore need to make a serious attempt to reach a compromise - not with Milosevic, who is by now largely irrelevant to the real long-term issue, but with the Serbian nation. It is with this nation that we are now at war, and it is with this nation that we shall still be dealing when this war is over.

The mission of Strobe Talbott, the US Deputy Secretary of State, to Moscow this week gives us the chance to use Russia to achieve such a compromise - and this would also do something to restore our dangerously shattered relations with Moscow. However, for this to work, we cannot simply follow US policy so far, which has essentially been one of telling Russia to tell Belgrade to surrender. If we are going to get the Serbs to agree to a settlement without defeating them on the ground or bombing them into starvation, then

any settlement will obviously have to be a negotiated one.

To achieve such a settlement first of all means facing facts. The most important of these is that Albanians and Serbs cannot now live together in a common state - indeed, this was already apparent 10 years ago. A large number of Albanians cannot possibly be asked to live again under the threat of Serbian military terror; but, equally, a withdrawal of Yugoslav forces from the whole of Kosovo and their replacement with Nato troops would sooner or later lead inevitably to the formal separation of the whole of Kosovo and the flight of its Serbian minority. Nato will not stay there indefinitely to protect them.

To achieve such a result, in an area that Serbs regard as of critical historical and emotional importance, will require their complete military defeat. To maintain such a settlement against the threat of a Serbian renegade will require a permanent Nato commitment in the region. It would probably also involve the heavy arming of Albania by Nato - a grotesque proposition, considering Albania's record as a failing state.

The only way to get out of this hole is to partition Kosovo. This could begin with the creation of "safe havens" for the Kosovar Albanians covering some two-thirds of the existing territory of Kosovo and akin to those established for the Kurds of northern Iraq in 1991. Yugoslav forces would withdraw behind a line patrolled by UN forces with a Nato component and guaranteed by the UN (including Russia) as well as Nato. This would allow most (though by no means all) of the refugees and those displaced within Kosovo to return home and would secure their safety. Nato would, however, have to give a formal



Viktor Chernomyrdin greets President Milosevic and Antonio Dragutin

assurance to Yugoslavia that, unless Yugoslav forces crossed that line, Nato air attacks would not resume.

This solution would obviously mean the Serbs giving up most of Kosovo. Its attraction for them, however, would be that it would involve de facto partition. This would leave them in control both of the remaining areas of Serbian population and of the emotionally most significant places: the battle field of Kosovo Polje itself and the Serbian monasteries.

This would be achieved by leaving in Serbian hands both a large swathe of territory in the north and a small, separate bit in the west adjacent to Montenegro and containing Pec (the site of the old Serbian Orthodox Patriarchate) and the monastery of Decane. This division would give the Serbs a great deal more than their present share of the Kosovar population would justify, but it would be roughly in line with their historical position in recent centuries, before the higher Albanian birthrate radically changed the local balance.

Such a solution would obviously be unacceptable to the Albanians. In particular, leaving Kosovo Polje in Serbian hands means in effect doing the same for the capital, Pristina, of which it is now a southern suburb. However, it should be possible to compensate the Kosovar Albanians for this loss. As it is, a massive programme of aid will be needed to rebuild Albanian homes destroyed by the Serbs. There is no reason why this should not be extended to the construction of a new regional capital at Prizren in the south-east - especially since this was in fact the capital of Kosovo under the Ottoman Empire.

A solution involving safe havens and de facto partition obviously involves Nato giving up some of its existing principles for a settlement, but it could still just about be presented as a Nato victory; but are we prepared to fight for a complete victory and live with the consequences?

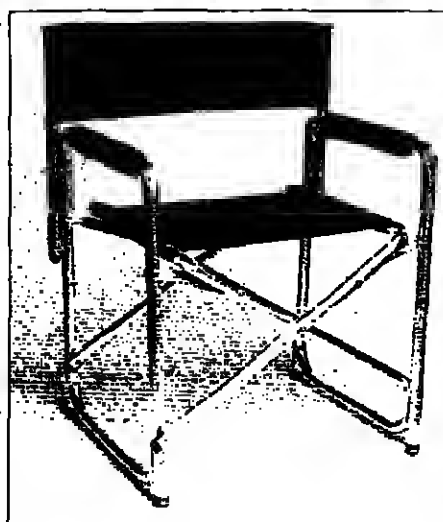
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Key components of a happy society



PODIUM

ANNE WEYMAN
From a speech by the
chief executive of the
Family Planning
Association to its
annual conference

SEXUAL HEALTH tends to be seen as a private or lifestyle issue, and primarily the concern of specialist health services. Yet it can be argued that the great innovations in sexual health, including universal access to contraception, the establishment of specialist services to treat sexually transmitted infections and the 1967 Abortion Act, have done more than any other public policy measures this century to promote public health.

In our modern pluralist society, the lifestyle approach to sexual health reflects our wish to recognise that conventional approaches to morality are no longer adequate and that informed choice is an essential underpinning of sexual health. However, the ability to make an informed choice is affected by many facets of our lives.

Behavioural, emotional, social and political factors all impact on an individual's ability to take control of and enjoy their sexuality, and to protect and celebrate their sexual health with knowledge and confidence.

In recent years, the main thrust of public health policy in

sexual health has been towards raising awareness about HIV/Aids and the establishment of services to treat and care for people who have contracted HIV. Less attention has been paid to other aspects, particularly inequalities in the ability to exercise choice and autonomy, the integration of sexual health into generic health and social policies and practice, and to the sexual health needs of socially excluded groups.

While specialised services are frequently clear and focused in their approach, there is often confusion and ambivalence about the potential contribution of non-specialists to the promotion of sexual health. Locating sexual health firmly within the new public health agenda opens up the possibility of a new approach to enhancing human health and well-being by promoting the healing and creative power of sexuality.

We need a definition of sexual health that reflects sexuality as positive and life-enhancing, and an awareness of the social, economic and political forces that impact on sexual health for individuals

and communities. The Family Planning Association's definition of sexual health is "the capacity and freedom to enjoy and express sexuality without exploitation, oppression, physical or mental harm".

If we examine how the population's sexual health measures up to this definition, we find that there is a wealth of qualitative and quantitative evidence which indicates that sexual health is poor.

Inequalities exist, such as a higher age of consent for gay men, which has reduced their freedom to protect their sexual health. The relationship between teenage pregnancy, low socio-economic status and low educational achievement illustrates the disadvantaged position of particular groups of young women. And the needs of boys and men are not adequately recognised, so they are rarely met by sexual health services.

Indicators of sexual health show a worrying position: approximately one-fifth of all pregnancies end in abortion; there were 446,000 cases of sexual infections diagnosed in genito-urinary medicine clinics in 1997, an overall increase of 5 per cent; a sixth of couples seek assistance for infertility. These figures demonstrate the current deficit in sexual health and the urgent need for action.

There must be a coherent national approach to sexual health as a primary component of human health overall. We need the Government to ensure that its new sexual health strategy employs an integrated approach, to avoid the

issue being marginalised because of a narrow, problem-led focus.

It should include a number of key objectives: encouraging openness, knowledge and understanding about sex; ensuring that all young people receive effective education about sex and relationships; and reducing inequalities by prioritising interventions for groups with poorer sexual health.

In addition to the overall strategy and the integration of sexual health into mainstream services, social inequalities need to be tackled in culturally sensitive specialist services. This has important consequences for the ethos and values of local services.

Sexual health is central to well-being and has a major impact on physical and mental health. The current problem-led approach limits the effectiveness of policies to meet the needs of all the population. We need a new approach, a new strategy that places sexual health firmly within the public health agenda and, in so doing, celebrates sex and relationships as key components of a happy and successful society.

Sex, lust and confusion



TERENCE BLACKER

The English male has confused desire with a yearning for a woman who can take charge

A CERTAIN amount of unseemly boastfulness has attended the allegations that two of Hollywood's most beautiful and dignified film stars, Nicole Kidman and Tom Cruise, required daily coaching in the art of making love from a couple of English - sex experts.

Elsewhere, as if to confirm this new and unexpected aspect of the national character, it was reported that Candace Bushnell, the American author of reports from the front line of New York singlehood, *Sex and the City*, had visited London and found that Englishmen were wonderful, sensitive, erotically attuned creatures. The international rumours about their performance - starting much too slowly, ending much too quickly, and so on - had been put about by jealous Englishwomen anxious to discourage potential sex tourists from flying in from Manhattan.

It is all very flattering and, some would say, after decades of leering contempt from smug, randy foreigners like Norman Mailer, much overdue. "She had a gift," Mailer wrote in *An American Dream*, before interrupting his sex scene for a joke at our expense. "She was giving me a short lecture with her tongue on the habits of the Germans, the French, the English (one sorry bite, indeed), the Italians, the Spanish." The cliché about the English being bad in bed has been given a regular outing in books and TV programmes ever since, and even appeared on TV in last week's *Fraser*, an episode during which the ghostly Daphne was revealed never to have slept with her boyfriend. "She's English," Niles explained to gales of knowing laughter from the studio audience.

No doubt, the ever-busy spinners of Westminster will seize on the Kidman/Cruise case and Bushnell's enthusiastic endorsement and set out to change our image in this, as in other areas. Forget Cool Britannia, the message will go out. From now on, it's Red-Hot Britannia. Pistol-Between-the-Sheets Britannia.

If this is the case, the first target for the marketing folk should be the English sex symbol - for nothing reveals more about our confusions and insecurities than the examples of national womanhood that are held



Diana Dors at home in Maidenhead, 1956: the 'dirty-postcard blonde' - for the British male, up there with the 'mummy' and 'jolly little sister' ideals of womanhood

up by the media as exemplars of erotic perfection.

How startling it must be for a foreign visitor, for example, to discover that according to the press, the entire male population is in lustful thrall to a cheerful, ruddy-faced, ginger-haired gardener whose main claim to fame appears to be that she mulches and digs without wearing a bra under her shirt. To her credit, Charlie Dymock is as startled and embarrassed as anyone by her elevation to the ranks of national pin-up, although a quick consideration of other favourite fantasy figures suggests that her solid, homely, unthreatening good looks and no-nonsense competence made her ideally qualified.

For, somewhere along the line, the English male seems to have confused desire with a deep, irrepressible yearning for a woman who can take charge, who can bring order and discipline and a certain rough companionship to his life.

It would be too easy to blame the class system with its nannies and boarding schools for this longing for an authority figure, and it would also be wrong: every Englishman, whatever his background, seems to

hanker after a Mummy figure.

Twenty years ago, a character such as the newsreader Angela Rippon or the sullen actress Glenda Jackson played the role to perfection. Serious, ambitious and masterful, they were occasionally skittish enough to appear in self-parodic mode on the Morecambe and Wise Christmas show. During the Eighties, the entire nation abased itself in masochistic adoration of Margaret Thatcher, with the more daring MPs and political commentators later owing up to what Julian Critchley described as "a bat-squeak of sexual desire" as she bullied and hectoring us all.

Somehow, as the Mummy figures grow older, their allure remains. There are film and theatre critics who will still attest to the allure of Dame Judi Dench, while Charlotte Rampling, now at an age when she no longer frightens us with her dangerous, erotic power, has also become a leading sex symbol of the Mummy variety. In the political arena, Clare Short has taken over the Thatcher role while Harriet Harman, described by Cycles Brandreth in his forthcoming diaries as "an inexplicable half-inch away

from being wonderfully attractive", is waiting in the wings. In fact, for the Mummy figure, matters of conventional attractiveness are of secondary importance: doubtless there are discipline-crazed Englishmen who harbour intimate fantasies about Ann Widdecombe. While it would be unfair on all parties to put Charlie Dymock in that company, she intoxicatingly combines the bossy competence of the mother figure with a hint of that other English sex symbol, the jolly little sister, most memorably exemplified by Felicity Kendal.

Equally reassuring to the English male is the more obvious pin-up, the dirty-postcard blonde, with her inevitably large breasts spilling in comic profusion out of a low-cut dress. The trendsetter here was probably Diana Dors, whose life is being dramatised in ITV's *The Blonde Bombshell* this week, and who was the subject of Sunday paper title-tattle over the weekend. "She was not sexy," a former lover called Michael Caborn-Wakefield recalled. "She was one of the least randy girls I ever went out with. For her, sex was a game."

That, of course, is the point of the

dirty-postcard blonde. The exaggerated blowiness of Dors and such successors as Barbara Windsor, Samantha Fox and Melinda Messenger does not represent sex any more than a McGill postcard or a Carry On film does. It's an idea of naughtiness, a one-dimensional substitute, something hilarious and futile, a quick flash of knicker, a giggle, maybe even a grope, while the missus's back is turned. The idea of a genuinely arousing scene - touch, tension, feeling, vulnerability - involving Babe or Sammy or Melinda, is unthinkable. They stand for the female distant, comical, inflated and, above all, safe.

If only we could report that it was only the English male who was fearful of intimacy, preferring authority, competence or a laugh to the real thing; but there is evidence that women are just as confused. Alan Titchmarsh, the grinning, bashful middle-aged gardener is said to be hearts-a-flutter across the Home Counties. Even more disturbingly, Des Lynam was reported to be receiving 10,000 letters from adoring female fans during last year's World Cup coverage, the tabloids describing him, in all apparent seri-

ousness, as "the nation's heart-throb". The blazer, the boring saloon-bar drone, the twinkle in the eye, the grey moustache: are there really women across the country for whom this is the stuff of erotic fantasy? It defies the imagination.

The spin doctors aiming to re-brand the country's sexual image might also have a word with our novelists. In fiction, perhaps as in life, something goes awry when the Englishman becomes passionate. Who could forget the sex scene in Richard Thorneley's *The Dark Clarinet* when, at a key moment of seduction, the lover was received "like the flaps of a security-screening machine at an airport", or Kingsley Amis's attempt at erotic fervour in *The Green Man*? "There was a lot of wool and other material, some cheek, some panting, some movement, some pressure and lack of everything else. Suddenly it all turned very immediate and as much as anybody could deal with."

Some cheek, some panting, Charlie Dymock, Des Lynam. If this is the English way of sex that Nicole and Tom are alleged to have been learning, no wonder they ended up in court.

RIGHT OF REPLY

STEPHEN RICHARDS



A member of the Campaign for an English Parliament replies to an article by Anne McElvoy

IT IS wrong for Anne McElvoy to characterise all those of us who are calling for an English parliament as "smug, arrogant and excluding southerners". Only some of us are like that! Indeed Ms McElvoy's suggestions for a new English patron saint emphasise what a diverse lot we are in England. This diversity is represented by the membership of the Campaign for an English Parliament. We have members from Yorkshire to Dorset and from Herefordshire to Norfolk. The campaign includes Europhiles and Europhobes; members of the Conservative and the Labour Parties; monarchists and republicans. Most of us have not been active in politics before.

An English parliament, perhaps outside London, need not mean more politicians and more expense. A smaller UK parliament at Westminster and a renegotiation of the Barnett formula should mean that the English parliament would pay for itself.

We are not opposed to regionalism, but do have some concerns about the creation of competing regions without any overall national focus for England.

If the UK Parliament becomes the guardian of England's interests, what credibility will it have in Scotland? If the UK Parliament cannot represent England's interests, who will?

We are calling for a constitutional convention to examine all the options for the government of England. Proposals developed by the convention would be put to the people of England in a referendum. An free and open debate is surely better than trying to pretend that there are no shortcomings to the present arrangements. Perhaps what our opponents fear is that this would open up a genuine debate about how we are governed.

Tales of wine and chocolate

IN HENRY James's last completed novel, there is a scene in which a Continental aristocrat remarks that tea, for the English, has a very particular relationship with morality: "so that the more one drank the more moral one became". In *Chocolat*, the third novel by Joanne Harris, chocolate occupies a comparable position. Throughout the moody and atmospheric narrative, chocolate is directly or indirectly responsible for the healing of family rifts and for bringing the idea of hope to the community's more desperate inhabitants; it serves as a spur to change for the oppressed characters; it even acts as a sort of solid, malleable foil to hypocrisy.

Chocolat tells the story of Vianne



Rocher, a mysterious and exotic woman who arrives in the French village of Lansquenet with her daughter Anouk, and almost immediately opens a little chocolate shop and café. The villagers soon flock to La Céleste Praline, eager to sample its dazzling selection of confectionery: the three-nut cluster, the Eastern Journey, the

TUESDAY BOOKS

CHOCOLAT

BY JOANNE HARRIS. DOUBLEDAY. £12.99

THE VINTNER'S LUCK

BY ELIZABETH KNOX. CHATTO & WINOUS. £10



pêche nu miel millefleurs soaked in eau de vie, and the Nipples of Venus. But La Céleste Praline is not without its detractors. The more religious villagers are angered by its opening on the first day of Lent and soon Vianne has a fevered adversary in Father Reynaud, who resembles a petty, vindictive priest from a Balzac story, although he lacks the intellectual powers of such a character. A portion of the novel is told from Reynaud's point of view and, as his fury with Vianne as temptress and champion of the dispossessed mounts, we are party to his psychotic fantasies of revenge.

As the story unfolds, more instances of the discord at the heart of this apparently serene village come to light. La Céleste Praline soon becomes a sort of sanctuary, where Vianne feeds chocolate to the villagers and listens to their fears and hopes and dreams.

Harris writes confident and stylish prose. The technical descriptions of chocolate-making, which are my favourite parts, are written as though the process itself were a sort of magic. If the book is slightly lacking in the emotional intensity it seeks, *Chocolat* is still a richly textured tale, evoking the claustrophobia of village life, and its amusements, with an impressively light touch.

In *The Vintner's Luck* by the New Zealand writer Elizabeth Knox, wine takes almost as important a role in the lives of the characters as chocolate does in Harris's book. Set in 19th-century Burgundy, the novel opens one

midsummer evening when Sohran Jodeau, a young wine grower, is visited by an angel in his vineyard. The angel is a physically beautiful creature with huge wings and a smell of snow. The confused adolescent Sohran appeals to it for guidance in matters of the heart.

The Vintner's Luck chronicles the angel's visits to Sohran, every year on the anniversary of that first night. Sohran and the angel drink wine from his vineyard, and soon their relationship seems to Sohran the most valuable and important in his life. Through marriage and fatherhood, improvements in the vineyards, the ups and downs of Sohran's military career and family disputes, the angel acts as a spiritual guide, almost a branch of his con-

science, as well as Sohran's closest friend. When one of his daughters dies, the angel even agrees to check that she is all right in heaven. After a while, their partnership falters when it becomes clear that angels can have uncomfortable secrets and lapses of spirit, too.

The Vintner's Luck is a strange book, both whimsical and deeply ambitious. Although rich with twists of fate and feeling, it does not wholly convince in its evocation of 19th-century France, nor in its darting between real and imaginary worlds. At times the narrative aims for a sort of fluid, worldly ease, like that of, say, André Gide's novel *The Immoralist*. At other moments, it seems to strive for quite a fanciful, almost fairy-tale tone, and then suddenly seems to see itself as a historical epic, novel of ideas, or even a poem. Although I did not find it wholly successful, some of its incidents are sharply drawn and memorable - such as when the hero, travelling as a soldier, has sex with a pregnant Russian prostitute whose waters suddenly break around them.

SUSIE BOYT



Chocolate changes character in Joanne Harris's novel Mark Nossaman

TUESDAY POEM

SEASHELLS

BY PAUL VERLAINE, TRANSLATED BY NORMAN R SHAPIRO

Each seashell in the walls where we
Made love - our grotto rendezvous -
Has its own special property.

One has our souls' deep crimson hue
Snatched from our hearts' blood when I flare
And flame with passion, as do you;

This one affects that look you wear -
Languid and pale - when, listless, spent,
You could me for my mocking air;

This one would sport the innocent
Curve of your ear; that one, like bud
Of rose, your neck's: pink, corpulent;

But one there was that fired my blood.

From 'One Hundred and One Poems' by Paul Verlaine: a bilingual edition, translated by Norman R Shapiro (University of Chicago Press, £19.95). © The University of Chicago. All rights reserved



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THERE'S NO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE OU EXPERIENCE

Melba Liston

THE CODE of behaviour at ladies' finishing schools never recommended taking up the trombone. The instrument didn't rival the piano or the cello in drawing room decorum. And yet the only two well-known women trombonists were both glamorous to look at. Melba Liston was one of them and the English Annie Whitehead, assured enough to appear naked with her horn on the sleeve of her last CD, was the other.

Melba Liston certainly saw every side of show business. On one occasion she was stranded with Billie Holiday, both of them broke, in a hostile South Carolina, and on another she walked about playing a harp in the film *The Ten Commandments* (1956). She suffered the perils of being the only woman in travelling big bands. "Rapes and everything. I've been going through that stuff for all my life. Yeah, well, you know, it's a broad and she's by herself. I'd just go to the doctor and tell him, and that was that. But the older I got, the less it happened. I don't know how old I was," she laughed, "but it stopped all together."

It was her talents as a composer and arranger that distinguished her, rather than her work as an instrumentalist. She wrote scores for innumerable big bands including those of Quincy Jones, Count Basie, Duke Ellington and Dizzy Gillespie. Her long association with her mentor, the pianist and composer Randy Weston, took her to the forefront of modern jazz and Tony Bennett, Billie Holiday, Abbey Lincoln and Diana Ross were among the vocalists that commissioned work from her. She recalled,

She suffered the perils of being the only woman in travelling big bands. 'Rapes and everything. I'd just go to the doctor and tell him, and that was that'

"I was born in Kansas City, Missouri, but I was raised between there and Kansas City, Kansas, where my grandparents were. I got my trombone when I was seven. They decided to form a music class at my elementary school and a travelling music store came with a variety of instruments. When I saw the trombone I thought how beautiful it looked and knew I just had to have one. No one told me that it was difficult to master. All I knew was that it was pretty and I wanted one."

She had problems using the slide: "I was tall then, but I didn't reach to sixth and seventh position. I used to have to turn my head sideways." By the time she was eight, Liston was good enough to play solo trombone on the local radio. Her mother had found a trombone teacher for her. "He wasn't right. I don't know how, but I knew. So I said no, cancelled, and went on my own. I was always good in my ears, so I could play by ear."

The family moved to Los Angeles in 1937. Liston was bright enough to join high school there in the eighth grade, although she had only been in the sixth in Kansas. "My music teacher at the school was real nice. He rode home with me and asked my mother could he adopt me. He said he wanted to further my music and be wanted to send me off to some teachers. But I didn't go. I just wanted to stay home with my mom." Some of her schoolfriends introduced Liston to Alma Hightower, a music teacher who ran a big band

made up of children from the neighbourhood. But the two fell out after four years when, at 16, Liston joined the musicians' union. Her teacher thought that she wasn't ready for such a step.

Liston joined the pit band at the Lincoln Theatre in Los Angeles:

"They would have a movie and then the show would take over. The all-girl Sweethearts of Rhythm band played at the Lincoln and they wanted to take me with them when they finished. I was riding with two of them and they got to carrying on - I mean not carrying on with each other. And I said, 'I'll be back', and I went and hid. Then I went and told my mother. I went on back with the band at the Lincoln. I was writing music by this time for this time for different acts who would come in and didn't have their music. I was at the Lincoln for about a year, I guess."

In 1943 the theatre stopped having shows and Liston joined a new big band being formed by the trumpeter Gerald Wilson, who had just left the Jimmy Lunceford band. Wilson's band was good enough to go out on tour and when it reached New York took over from Duke Ellington at the Apollo Theatre. It made records back in Los Angeles, and

in 1949, Liston went again with Gerald Wilson, who had been hired to form a band to accompany Billie Holiday on a tour of the South. "It was a little ahead for people down there. They weren't ready for Billie Holiday and this Bebop band, what they really wanted was dance music. The farther we got, the smaller the audience became and by the time we reached South Carolina there was just nobody. We finally made it to Kansas City and then sent for money from Los Angeles. It was two days getting to us. So we had a lot of oatmeal."

Liston was so disillusioned that she left the band and gave up music. She returned to Los Angeles where, for three years, she took a job as an administrator for the Board of Education. She temporarily gave up the trombone, but continued to compose and arrange. "The job was good experience and brought me out a little. I used to be very shy and hardly ever spoke to strangers, so it kind of freed me up." At this point she had a brief subsidiary career as a film actress. She said of this experience:

"I had a long thing with Lana Turner and walked around behind her playing a harp in *The Prodigal* (1955) and was a member of the palace orchestra in *The Ten Commandments*. I was tall and skinny then and they said that had they known about me sooner they could have used me in several of those Egyptian movies. I never really took acting seriously. It was nice doing those movies but they're all crazy out there in Hollywood."

In 1956 Gillespie was invited to form a big band to tour the Middle East and Asia on behalf of the State Department. Liston gave up the administrative job and rejoined the band. She returned to it the following year when the State Department sent Gillespie to South America. This was a historic band and it had some of Liston's best writing at the heart of its library. Her best arrangements for it included "Annie's Dance", "My Reverie", "Stella By Starlight" and "The Gypsy", all of which were recorded. Fellow musicians abused her at this time: "When I started going with Gerald Wilson I was okay because I had his support so I didn't have to worry. But when I went back into Dizzy's band, it was the same thing all over again." She appeared with Gillespie's band at the Newport Jazz Festival in 1957, and the subsequent recording survives as one of the most exciting of all big band albums. Liston played a powerful solo on the piece "Cool Breeze".

Quincy Jones had been a trumpeter in Gillespie's band and when he formed a band to tour in Europe with the show "Free and Easy" with music by Harold Arlen he asked Liston to join. "Several of us who were in Dizzy's band went with Quincy's orchestra. I was writing all the time for that band and Quincy would write the light tunes. They were his kind of thing, Ernie Wilkins wrote the hard-swinging Basie-type numbers and I did the ballads and standards. We had a nice little family circle going." Despite its popularity the package hit financial



Liston playing at the Nice Jazz Festival, 1980

David Redfern

problems, and the musicians had great difficulty getting back to New York where, loyal to Jones, they rejoined his band when he put it together again.

Liston spent most of the Sixties working in New York freelancing as an arranger and playing on studio sessions. She was house arranger and conductor for the Riverside record label. She scored the music for albums by Milt Jackson, Randy Weston, Gloria Lynne and Johnny Griffin. She also arranged albums for Marvin Gaye, Billy Eckstine and the Supremes. She worked often with the trumpeter Clark Terry and they briefly co-led a big band. She also played for Charlie Mingus, appearing at his infamous New York Town Hall concert of 1962.

But the most important event of the period was the establishment of her long-term musical partnership with Randy Weston who was also working for Riverside. Initially he employed her to put flesh onto his compositions. "Melba is incredible;

she hears what I do and then expands it," said the composer. "She will create a melody that sounds like I created it. She's just a great arranger."

Returning to Los Angeles in the late Sixties she worked with youth orchestras. She moved to Jamaica in 1973, staying there until 1979. She taught at the University of the West Indies and the Jamaica Institute of Music in Kingston. On her return to Los Angeles she formed an all-girl septet called Melba Liston and Company. The group was the main attraction at the 1979 Kansas City Women's Jazz Festival. Although she dropped the all-girl line up, the band survived until 1983.

The partnership with Weston flourished and in all the two made many albums together, including *Blues to Africa*, *High Life*, *Little Niles*, *Spirits of Our Ancestors*, *Tarjah*, *Music of the New African Nations*, *Volcano Blues* and *Music of the New African Nations*. "We never said it directly," said Weston,

explaining the philosophy of their composing.

but we both knew that to do a recording we would want to have the older musicians to give us that foundation, and then we would get the younger musicians on top. The older musicians have the know-how, they know all the secret things that we don't know about music. Melba always made sure that we would have that kind of base."

Liston was due to appear at the Camden Jazz Festival in 1986 but was prevented from doing so by the first of several strokes, and from then on was confined to a wheelchair. Subsequent strokes forced her to give up playing, but she continued to compose and arrange. Last week a concert was given in her and Randy Weston's honour at Harvard University.

STEVE VOCE

Melba Doretta Liston, trombonist, composer and arranger: born Kansas City, Missouri 13 January 1926; married; died Los Angeles 23 April 1999.

Michael Melford

IT WAS characteristic of Michael Melford that, when asked to write a book on cricket since 1945, he told the publisher "I was not of the stuff of which historians are made". The publisher persisted and "we settled for a contemporary view of events in the last 45 years."

Melford then balked at the publishers' proposed title: "Melford on Cricket" and would settle for nothing more vainglorious than *After the Interval*. The book was published in 1990 and remains an unsung minor classic, a scrupulously fair account, written with wit and insight, of what we can now see was the Indian summer of English cricket, the last years before the making of profit became more important than playing the game.

Michael Melford was born in St John's Wood, north London, in 1916, the son of Austin Melford, whose name can be seen among the credits of several British films of the 1930s, who helped revive the seaside pierrot shows at the Apollo Theatre in the 1920s and who was a leading member of the Co-Optimists. Michael, in contrast to a man of the theatre, preferred not to be centre-stage, if anything, rather off-stage.

He was a leading middle-distance runner at Charterhouse and Christ Church, Oxford, and a member of the Oxford athletics team that toured North America in 1937; he won a Blue the following year and took a degree in Law.

He wrote memories of that American tour in *I Was There*, a series of reminiscences by *Daily* and *Sunday Telegraph* sportswriters published in 1966. Oxford and Cambridge, reported Melford, had defeated Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Cornell.

Our victories, however, had been achieved only by the odd event - and they had been won by the brilliance of the few, including Ali Khan, the massive Turk who was allergic to training and lay on his bed all day to avoid what he called steepland but rose in time to win the Weight.

Melford joined the Royal Artillery in 1939 and with three two-pounder anti-tank guns was ordered to defend a stretch of the Scottish coast, the Royal and Ancient at St Andrews. "All those heroes of those and other days," he wrote, "if they wanted the Old Course to survive, had to rely on a perfectly ghastly player with a slice which ranked high among the horrors of war or peace."

He served in Egypt, Tunisia and Italy, was demobilised from the Balkans in the rank of major, and was appointed athletics correspondent of *The Observer* in 1946, later occupying the same post with the *Daily Telegraph*, covering the Olympic Games in Melbourne 1956 and Rome 1960.



Melford: 'Who are you?'

He became deputy to E.W. Swanton on the cricket pages and the first cricket correspondent of the newly founded *Sunday Telegraph*. He served the two newspapers with distinction for 22 years and after his retirement continued to write obituaries and contribute to *The Telegraph Cricket Yearbook*. He was a close friend of Peter May and helped May with his memoirs *A Game Enjoyed* (1985). He was also associate editor of the first edition of the encyclopaedic *World of Cricket* (1966).

Despite his self-disparagement he was both a useful cricketer, playing for Hampshire and Nondescripts, and a gaffer respectable enough to be asked to write a history of the Denham club. He offered a shy but warming welcome to newcomers to the England press box during his own tenure there where his dignity and demeanour made him never less than an elder statesman.

On his last tour, in the West Indies, in 1981 the England party was dogged by an enthusiastic follower, a retired manufacturer from Yorkshire. Albert was affable but could not refrain from talking about his business, his ups and downs, his deals and takeovers. On the penultimate night of the tour, Melford, at a loose end, seeing Albert alone by the bar, invited him to dine. Melford listened stoically to him for almost two hours.

The following morning, he told us: "Strange chap, Albert. At the end of the meal he stood up, thanked me and then asked 'Who are you?'"

DEREK HODGSON

Michael Austin Melford, cricket writer: born London 9 November 1916; married Lorna Powell (two daughters); died Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire 19 April 1999.

Martin Shuttleworth



Shuttleworth: rebel with many causes

IT IS said that writers of exiguous output - E.M. Forster and Bruce Chatwin the names most often quoted - enjoy reputations in excess of their worth. If so, Martin Shuttleworth should be a writer of inordinate fame, for in a long career of devoted authorship he completed and published very little.

The maverick son of a soldier (General Sir Digby Shuttleworth of the Indian Army), Shuttleworth went predictably to Wellington and more typically to King's College, Cambridge, where he read English. Among contemporary friends there he numbered Simon Raven and Mark Boxer.

In 1957 his appointment as literary editor of the weekly *Time & Tide* convinced him early that office life was not for him, and he was at once more at home writing verse plays for David Thomson at the BBC Third

Programme. Leaving London for good in 1960, winning a prize fellowship in Bristol University's drama department, Shuttleworth wrote for a year, *Gout Song*, for the Bristol Old Vic and formed a film company that lived long enough to produce a pair of commendable documentaries.

For the next two decades, writing all the time, he continued to haunt the provinces, first as head of Liberal Studies at the Leicester College of Art and Design (from 1967), then at the Portsmouth Polytechnic (from 1971), where running the Fine Art department allowed him again to make films, and finally to Farnham (from 1979), where he was both tutor and librarian at the West Surrey College of Art and Design.

Not least of his gifts as a teacher and man was the charm and fluency of his running commentary on life,

both anecdotal and exploratory, which he delivered with total openness, passion and merriment. His talk ran rings round life's ordinary confusions. He was a master of the digression so engaging that bringing him back to the point seemed ill-mannered. In a witty way he also remained an undergraduate subversive, a rebel with too many causes to cope with.

His retreat to his adored Spain in 1988 was an advance, a final act of self-liberation from routine. Earlier, in 1982, for Sue Bradbury at the Foho Society, "this big unbydly vagabond of a man" (as she describes him) translated "superbly well" from the Spanish Diego Hurtado de Mendoza's *The War in Granada*. He threw himself into 16th-century Andalusian wars with such longing to illuminate the subject from within that his introduction almost rivalled the book in

length. His inability to cut forced Folio to "induce the birth" by taking the typescript into their own hands.

So with Shuttleworth's voluminous fiction. Rumours were always circulating of vast novels under way. A mountainous thriller was completed, apart from finishing touches. His perfectionism partook of neurosis; he balked at completing a book for fear of betraying its original design. Lately he wrote most of a novel, *Bonzo*, about a psychiatrist with a skeleton not only in his cupboard but actually in his consulting room, the bones of a German aristocrat labelled in Spanish, which Shuttleworth managed to conjure into an effortless metaphor. The book will surely surface.

His marriage in 1953 to Diana Moorson was of the closest. To their children, Benedict, Emma, Lucy and Jason, their parents offered

the lure of liberty, the patience of care and the benefit of the doubt.

Martin Shuttleworth was the most open-air man of his literary generation, careless of his career, never happier than when walking in the high Pyrenees, delighted to get back to his desk provided he had no deadlines. His most recent enterprise, which he insisted on calling a potboiler, was *Just in Case*, a bilingual guide to the language of illness, useful equally to doctor and patient, when sick in Spain or Britain. He had just sold the English rights. His last work looks doomed to success.

DAVID HUGHES

Martin Digby George Shuttleworth, writer and teacher: born Nevern, Pembrokeshire 28 August 1929; married 1953 Diana Moorson (two sons, two daughters); died London 19 April 1999.

Bob Irving

BOB IRVING was one of the best and strongest-running second-row forwards of his era, who shared in Great Britain's most memorable rugby league successes but who generally managed to be at the wrong club at the wrong time during his domestic career.

Although he was born and played his early rugby in Huddersfield, with the St Joseph's club, he was pinched from under the noses of the local professional side by Oldham and taken over the Pennines at the age of 16. His impact there was so immediate that he was a regular in the first team pack by the end of that 1964-65 season. Not the tallest of forwards, his great asset was the way that he

could break through defences with the explosive power of his running. Selection for Great Britain Under-24s soon followed, and for his native Yorkshire. By 1967, he was also a fixture in the Great Britain side, playing twice against France and then in all three Tests in the series that was lost to Australia in the deciding match at Swinton.

Irving was also a member of the 1970 Lions touring party to Australia - the last to return home with the Ashes - although he played only in the first Test at Brisbane. He was back in the starting line-up for the New Zealand leg of the tour.

Indeed, it was remarkable that he figured in international delibera-

tions at all, because he was a member of one of Oldham's poorest sides; the preceding 1969-70 season had been the worst in their history, as they finished a lowly 29th in the Rugby League's single division. They would have suffered the ignominy of finishing 30th and last if Irving had not scored the try that beat Batley in the final match of the season.

On a more exalted stage, Irving was a member of Great Britain's World Cup-winning squad in France in 1972. By the time he left Oldham in 1973, Irving had won 11 Great Britain caps and his record in a lacklustre club side also shows what an effective forward he had become. In 296 appearances, he had scored 80

tries for the Roughyeds, without which they would have been in even more dire straits.

On his departure, Irving had the misfortune to be a member of one of the less successful Wigan teams of the post-war period, although he was in the side that beat Salford to win the Lancashire Cup during his first season at Central Park. In four seasons, he played 154 games - this was long before anyone worried about the workload on players - and showed that he had not lost his eye for the try-scoring chance by crossing the line 40 times before he moved on in 1977.

The rest of Irving's career saw him wandering from club to club,

starting with Salford, followed by Barrow, then in one of their ambitious phases of importing players from Lancashire and Yorkshire in a bid to recapture their glory days. He played and, for six months, coached at Blackpool Borough, the town where he had a hotel, until he was sacked in the middle of a particularly bad run of defeats.

His last club was Swinton and he retained his knack of try-scoring to the extent that his last months as a player in 1983 still brought him seven tries in 18 appearances. It was a tally that younger forwards would have envied.

At the time of his death, Irving was planning to return to Australia

with the Rugby League Lions' Association to watch Great Britain this autumn. By a remarkable coincidence, the Test side is now coached by a man whose career followed Irving's almost exactly. Andy Goodway, a Yorkshireman who played for Oldham and Wigan, also made his name as a devastating ball-runner from the second-row. That helps to illustrate the way that Irving's playing style set a pattern for the future.

DAVE HADFIELD

Robert Irving, rugby league player: born Huddersfield, Yorkshire 15 December 1948; died Blackpool, Lancashire 18 April 1999.

Michael Melford

Jill Dando



Dando in Sydney Harbour, 1996, while shooting an episode of *Holiday* for the BBC

THE COVER of this week's *Radio Times* shows a 37-year-old woman at the prime of her professional career and about to take the most significant step of her personal life. Jill Dando was moving on from the *Holiday* programme, where she had become part of the nation's consciousness, synonymous with entertaining, yet insightful, reports from around the world, to her new series, *Antiques Inspectors*. The move was in part because she planned to marry her boyfriend, Alan Farthing, in September. She told the magazine that "getting married this autumn was certainly an additional incentive to spend rather more time in England".

Jill Dando was born in Weston-super-Mare in 1961. When she was a few months old, she was diagnosed as having a hole in the heart. She received major surgery at the age of three, from which she made a complete recovery. At Worle comprehensive school in the Somerset resort she was, by all accounts, an unremarkable schoolgirl with an uncommon interest in television: she once wrote to Jimmy Savile asking him to fix it for her to appear on TV. After taking her O levels, she moved to Broadoak Sixth-Form Centre where she became head girl in 1979.

Her single-mindedness steered her straight from A levels to a journalism course at the South Glamorgan Institute of Higher Education and a job on her local newspaper, the *Weston and Somerset Mercury*. In terms of her later career, the time she spent as a print journalist there was relatively languid, though she did become an accomplished member of the local amateur dramatic society.

In 1985 Dando's potential as a broadcaster was spotted by John Lilley of BBC Radio Devon. Her appointment as a reporter marked the start of a highly productive and successful career with the corporation. She became presenter of the station's breakfast programme, and was soon signed up by BBC South West's television news magazine, *Spotlight*.

Her ability to glide seemingly effortlessly from one medium to another was a testament to her professionalism and sheer hard work, unimpeded by the kind of complicated personal life that often blights the career of rising stars. In 1986, when she was 24, her mother died after an 18-month battle with leukaemia; her father still lives in Weston-super-Mare.

Dando's personal and professional roles converged when she moved to network television in 1988, aged 26. Bob Wheaton, then editor of *Breakfast Time*, recruited her initially as an occasional stand-in presenter on the BBC1 morn-

ing news magazine. As her presenting shifts became more regular, she began a long and occasionally stormy relationship with Wheaton that was to last for most of the Nineties.

BBC executives spotted her potential for other, higher-profile shows. In 1993 she rejuvenated the long-established *Holiday* programme by bringing a mix of news magazine. As her presenting shifts became more regular, she began a long and occasionally stormy relationship with Wheaton that was to last for most of the Nineties.

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she remained both shiningly professional and resonantly human - as modest, decent and dignified off camera as she was on screen.

Throughout her rise to fame, Dando remained down-to-earth and caring; she worked hard for charity as well as for the BBC. Recently, her personal life became ascendant; in January this year Dando's new boyfriend, the gynaecologist Alan Farthing, proposed to her. She accepted, and the couple had planned to marry in a church ceremony in September after her stint presenting the *Holiday* spin-off *Summer Holiday*.

Only very rarely does a broadcaster become so much a part of our lives that the mere mention of the name is enough to conjure up an instant and wholly positive image. Jill Dando achieved this in a television career that lasted barely a decade.

SIMON CALDER

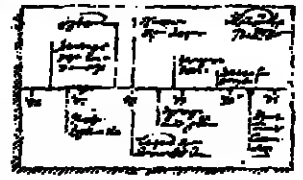
Jill Wendy Dando, broadcaster: born Weston-super-Mare, Somerset 9 November 1961; died London 26 April 1999.

Under intense pressure to get everything right on the first take, she remained as dignified off camera as she was on screen

of journalistic integrity and genuine charm to travel television. She thrived on punishing filming schedules - 80,000 miles or more in a year - combined with regular stints as BBC1 newscaster and *Crimestwatch* presenter.

Her fellow *Crimestwatch* presenter, Nick Ross, said yesterday, "You will only ever hear kind things about Jill, because

elling, but the encounter was telling. In 1994 I was on holiday at a resort in Jordan when a coachload of tourists, plus film crew, suddenly turned up. Dando was making a film about a high-speed holiday dash, and was obliged to work in real time to fit in with the tour operator's schedule. Under intense pressure to get everything right on the first take,



HISTORICAL NOTES CULLEN MURPHY

Was the first human being really a male?

A FEW weeks ago, newspapers throughout Europe and North America carried a story about the unveiling, in New York, of the first page of "the only handwritten and illuminated bible to be commissioned since the advent of the printing press 500 years ago". The new manuscript bible, whose calligraphy is to be done by the scribe to Queen Elizabeth's Crown Office at the House of Lords, will incorporate imagery "reflecting a multicultural world".

It will be interesting to see how much of that imagery, if any, draws on the insights of three decades of writing and research by feminist scholars on biblical matters. The Bible is famous for being the world's most over-studied book, but it has not been overstudied by women. Until recently, it was studied by male scholars hardly at all, let alone by female scholars who were interested specifically in what the Bible had to say about women - and who were interested in challenging or reinterpreting much of what they found the Bible to be saying.

That has changed. Today, the Bible is being confronted not only by women who are theologians, and who have overtly religious motivations, but also by women who are biblical scholars, linguists, historians, archaeologists, and literary critics. The influx of women into these fields has brought a new vitality to meetings of biblical societies.

The women taking on the Bible have much to confront. As a prescriptive text, the Bible has been interpreted down the ages as explaining the creation of woman as an afterthought; as defining the purpose of woman to be the servant of man; and as laying the blame on a woman, Eve, for humanity's expulsion from Eden.

Prescriptions aside, the implicit sexual outlook of the Bible's content is frequently disturbing. Yes, the Bible offers portraits of heroic and exemplary women. More often, it depicts women as schemers and tricksters, as threats to virtue and purity. Alternatively, it depicts women as pawns or victims, as disposable objects of divine or masculine will. And there is no getting around the basic androcentricity of the Bible.

In the Hebrew Bible, only about 115 of the 1,400 people who are given names are women; the proportion of women in the New Testament is only a little better. Five books of the Bible make no reference to women at all. And what about all those "beggars", in which prostitution is depicted as an accomplishment for which men deserve all the credit?

And yet, for women, the biblical situation is perhaps not quite as bleak as it is sometimes made out to be. Many aspects of the Bible will always be profoundly distressing - and no amount of scholarship can argue around them. But the Bible sometimes offers more of a resource for feminists - he they interested in historical or religious issues - than might at first appear.

For example, does the theology of the Creation stories actually point to the equality of woman and man - centuries of interpretation to the contrary? Might it even be incorrect to think of the first human being, Adam, as a male? Is it incorrect, further, to interpret the Adam and Eve story as a parable of sexuality and gender roles, rather than as a parable of moral freedom and personal responsibility?

That new manuscript bible is scheduled to be finished in the year 2004. It will be a work of art. The translation being used, its creators emphasise, is that of the New Revised Standard Version - a translation that takes exquisite pains to use gender-inclusive language. Well, fine. But inclusive language is merely a sideshow. The important feminist activity in biblical scholarship is taking place in a bigger arena. And the show is in for a very long run.

Cullen Murphy is the author of *The Word According to Eve: Women and the Bible in ancient times and our own* (Allen Lane, £20).

GAZETTE

DEATHS

BROWN: Dame Gillian Gerda Brown, DVO CMC, former Ambassador to Norway, died suddenly on 21 April, aged 75. So greatly loved sister of Juliet Frankland and daughter of the late Gerda and Walter Brown. Funeral service at St Mary with St Peter, The Bells, London SW10 on 7 May at 1pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, but donations, if desired, to the Anglo-Norse Society and Somerville College, Oxford, c/o Leverton's, 112 Eversholt Street, London NW1 1BD. Memorial service to be announced later.

CRAWLEY: On 21 April 1999 in King's College Hospital, Robert Hugh, beloved husband of Ann. Private cremation will be followed by thanksgiving memorial service later in the summer. No flowers please. Donations if desired to Médecins Sans Frontières c/o Chelsea Funeral Directors, 91 Rochester Row, SW1P 1LS. 0171-834 3281.

DOUGARE: Joyce, widow of JMD, died peacefully after a long illness on 23 April, in her 77th year. Will be greatly missed by her daughters Anne and Gwyn, sons-in-law Piero Marigeli and Bruce Miller, grandsons Tom and Darcy, and all her many friends. No flowers, please, but donations if desired to Trinity Hospice, 30 Clapham Common

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

North Side, London SW4 0RN (0171-787 1006).

KAPLAN: (née Baranov, Ruth Estelle, partner of Yehuda and mother of Leon, Simon and David, died in hospital on 24 April. Funeral will be held on Thursday 29 April at 3.30pm at The Crematorium, Ridgeway, Haringey, London. Intensely missed by family, friends, comrades and colleagues. If preferred, instead of flowers, donations may be made to Cancer Research Campaign, 351, 354 1462.

SALTER: Martin, died peacefully at home in Oradea, Romania, on 22 April, after a long and courageous fight against cancer. A much loved husband, father, grandfather and brother.

For BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding notices, In memoriam), call 0171-293 2012 or fax to 0171-293 2010; notices are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

BIRTHDAYS

Professor John Barron, Master of St Peter's College, Oxford, 65; Mr Christopher Battiscombe, ambassador to Jordan, 59; Mr Pk Botha, former South African government minister, 67; Miss Dorey Bussell, ballerina, 30; Mr Donald Buttriss, Surveyor of the Fabric of Westminster Abbey, 67; The Most Rev Lord Eames, Archbishop of Armagh, and Primate of All Ireland, 62; Mr Michael Fish, weatherman, 55; The Marquess of Harrington, Her Majesty's Representative, Ascot, 55; Sir Peter Lambert, former Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, 66; The Right Rev Eric Kemp, Bishop of Chester, 64; Mr Jack Kingman, actor, 78; Sir Harry Melville, former Principal, Queen Mary College, 91; Mr Kerry Pollard MP, 55; Mr Gwyn Prosser MP, 56; Mr Richard Ralph, Governor of the Falkland Islands, 53; The Hon Nicholas Serota, Director, the Tate Gallery, 58; Lord Taylor of Gryffe, former chairman, Morgan Grenfell (Scotland), 87.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Jean-François Millet, painter, 1842; Edward Gibbon,

historian and writer, 1737; Cecil Day Lewis, poet and novelist, 1904. Deaths: Philip the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, 1404; Ralph Waldo Emerson, writer, 1882; Harold Hart Crane, poet, committed suicide 1932. On this day: the English defeated the Scots at the Battle of Dunbar, 1296; the London Zoological Gardens opened, 1828; Britain recognised the state of Israel, 1950. Today is the Feast Day of St Anthony of Nicomedia, St Asicus or Tassach, Saints Castor and Stephen, St Floribert of Liege, St Maughold or Maucul, St Zita.

RECEPTIONS

Vizard Oldham
The partners of Vizard Oldham, Solicitors and Parliamentary Agents, held a reception yesterday for clients and friends at the Institute of Directors, London SW1, to celebrate the launch of the firm as one of the successor partnerships to the old firm of Vizards, which ceases to exist on 30 April 1999. The reception was preceded by a lecture given by Sir Bruce Martin QC, Chairman of the National Health Service Litigation Authority, entitled "Clinical Negligence Litigation in the New Millennium".

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community, presents the Community Entrepreneurs Awards at St James's Palace. The Princess Royal visits Egypt. The Duchess of Gloucester opens the new premises of Nursery Supplies (Bourne) Ltd, Bourne, Lincolnshire; opens the new buildings at the Devington School, Devington, St James, Lincolnshire; and visits Holbeck Hospital, Rotherham, Lincolnshire. The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman, British Overseas Trade International, opens the Warrington Business Connections Exhibition at Burtonwood, Warrington; opens the Autogest Stadium at Widnes, Cheshire; opens the Millennium Learning Centre of the Priestley Sixth Form and Community College, Warrington; and, as Grand Master, United Grand Lodge of England, attends a dinner for the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Sweden and others in the Great Hall, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Welsh Guards.

LECTURES

National Portrait Gallery: Jonathan Stephenson, "Artists' Techniques Series: Sir Anthony and the alchemists", 1.10pm.

CHESS ION SPEELMAN

APART FROM Michael Adams's splendid win, the great sensation at the tournament in Dos Hermanas was Viswanathan Anand's execrable form, which netted him seven draws and two losses without a single win to share last place on just 3.5/9. Clearly, the usually scintillating Indian is in serious need of a long rest, but his play must also have been adversely affected by negotiations that started way back on 12 March - long before the beginning of Dos Hermanas on 6 April - as to a possible match with Gary Kasparov in October.

Billed as the "Ultimate World Chess Championship" this has been set up by the Dutch businessman Bessel Kok, the dynamo behind the wonderful Swift tournaments in Brussels in the late Eighties and the now long-defunct Grandmasters' Association (GMA), which last year organised Kasparov's match with Jan Timman in Prague, intended as a warm-up for the aborted World Chess Council (WCC) world championship match with Alexei Shirov.

Kok brought in the Canadian entrepreneur Serge Gmiraux to promote and organise the event, the Swiss banker Dr William Worth, and a former Fide president - now speaker of the Icelandic parliament - the grandmaster Fridrik Olafsson, to bolster the bid, which includes a prize fund of \$3m to be split 2:1.

Although Kasparov has already accepted - and crucially agreed to put his title on the line - Anand, who presumably felt railroaded, left Dos Hermanas for a month in India (nowadays he spends most of the year in Spain) without committing himself either way.

The organisers' deadline of Friday 23 April has passed, and there had still been no reply by Sunday night. But, before leaving, Anand told the top Spanish chess journalist, Leonko Garcia, of El Pais, that he considers the offer serious. No doubt, Anand will want some further time at home to compose himself. But at least there is now some possible action in the troubled world championship arena.

Jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal

TUESDAY LAW REPORT

27 APRIL 1999

R v The Bloody Sunday Inquiry, ex parte B and others Court of Appeal (Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Otton and Lord Justice Ward) 30 March 1999

THE COURT of Appeal had jurisdiction to entertain an appeal against part of the reasoning of the Divisional Court in its decision on an application for judicial review.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal of the second "Bloody Sunday" trial against one of the grounds for allowing an application for judicial review of its decision to grant only partial anonymity to certain witnesses who had been granted complete anonymity at the original inquiry.

The original tribunal of inquiry had been set up in 1972 under Lord Widgery to inquire into the events in Londonderry on "Bloody Sunday", in the course of which 13 people were killed and others were injured as a result of shooting by the British army. In January 1998 the Prime Minister announced that a second tribunal would be set up to conduct a fresh investigation. Both inquiries had the same terms of reference.

On 17 December 1998 the second tribunal gave a ruling that five soldiers who had admitted having fired live rounds on the day in question, and who had been allowed to give evidence anonymously at the Widgery inquiry, would not be allowed to remain completely anonymous in that their surnames could be revealed during the course of the present inquiry, unless special circumstances justifying such anonymity were shown to apply in individual cases.

Four of the soldiers applied for judicial review of the tribunal's ruling. The Divisional Court declared the ruling invalid on five grounds, and accordingly held that the matter

of anonymity should be returned to the tribunal to be re-determined. The tribunal appealed to the Court of Appeal against the decision on one ground, namely that the decision was flawed because of a misunderstanding of "the nature and extent of the anonymity granted to the applicants by Lord Widgery" and that it was "important for the inquiry to have a clear perception of what was granted in 1972 and what endured".

On the appeal, it was argued for the applicants that, pursuant to section 16(1) of the Supreme Court Act 1981, the Court of Appeal only had jurisdiction to entertain an appeal against "any judgment or order", and not against one of the reasons for a decision.

Edwin Glasgow QC, David Lloyd Jones and Michael Boole (Treasury Solicitor) for the applicants; Christopher Clarke QC, Alan Razzburgh and Jacob Grieron (Philip L. Rudd) for the respondent; Edwin Glasgow QC, David Lloyd Jones and Michael Boole (Jacqueline Duff & Co) for soldier H. an interested party.

John Coyle (B.M. Birnberg & Co as London agents for McCutcheon & Casey, Madden & Finucane and Desmond J. Doherty & Co for the families of the dead and injured, interested parties.

Lord Woolf MR said that Order 53 rule 10(3) of the Rules of the Supreme Court set out the wide powers of the Court of Appeal on an appeal, and Order 53 rule 9(4) referred to the powers of the court on an application for judicial review where an order of certiorari was sought, namely to quash the decision in question and remit it with a direction to reconsider. Although the Divisional Court had not availed itself of the power under Order 53 rule 9, the Court of Appeal would have had power to remit the case in the same way as the Divisional Court could have done, thus enabling it to correct any error there might have been.

The tribunal, in considering the question of anonymity, had adopted what could be described as a "clean sheet" approach. However, to reveal the names of the applicants now would be in direct conflict with the anonymity they had been granted in 1972.

The Divisional Court had not, by its decision, fettered the proper role of the tribunal, but had only drawn the tribunal's attention to a matter which it could not ignore. It had not bound the tribunal to take any particular course, but only to take account, when reconsidering the matter of anonymity, of the obvious inference to be drawn from what Lord Widgery had said in granting anonymity.

KATE O'HANLON
Barrister

WORDS CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

experiential, adj.

SHOULD HER Majesty make Chris Woodhead, her Chief Inspector of Schools, stand in the corner? For him, to dally with a sixth-former is "educative and experiential" all round.

It is hardly a romantic word ("feeling experiential, darling?") I'll chill the Chablis". Indeed, according to Coleridge's *The*

prate object but the material world". Oddly, it was first used as an adverb (1647) by Henry More - and to describe the spiritual influence on the soul.

Woodhead's text is more Cole Porter. He "learned reliance / On the sacred teachings of science". Youth should "do what all good scientists do. / Experiment."



THE JOYS OF
MODERN LIFE42. AIRLINE FOOD
BY CLAIRE GERVAT

THE METAL trolley rattles into the aisle. It must be at least 20 rows away, but already a Mexican wave of descending tray tables is rippling its way back towards you. The tantalising smell of hot food seems to fill the air as the cabin staff move with agonising slowness in your direction. If it weren't for the lack of leg room, you'd be on the edge of your seat with excitement. It can only mean one thing: you're about to get an airline meal.

Far too many people seem to think it's clever to sneer at the food on planes, especially those who'd be hard pushed to rustle up a boiled egg and soldiers on *terra firma*. They're obviously missing the point - I bet they don't like *Sunset Beach*, either.

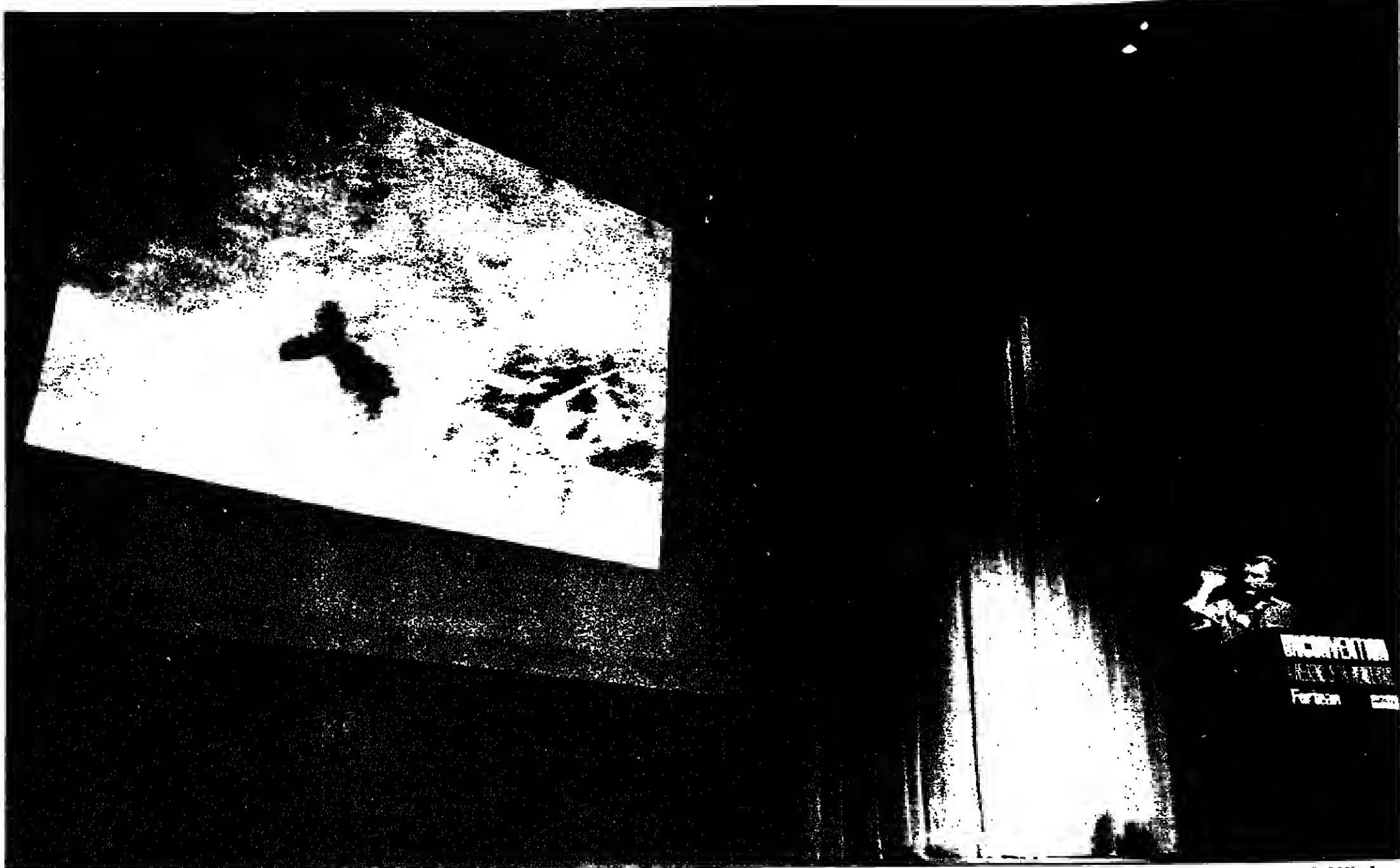
For a start, in a world where restaurant menus are so encyclopaedic you need to have done a speed-reading course to get through one by the time the waiter comes, it's a relief to have just two options for your main course, and none at all for your starter or pudding. Better still, there aren't any mystery, voguish ingredients, or complex descriptions to decipher; on a recent flight, the choice was "chicken or fish".

Of course, it's when you actually get your food that the real fun begins: all those little square boxes to explore, lids to remove, foil to rip off. You never quite know what you're going to find, but one thing you do know - it's bound to be as square as the boxes. There'll be cubes of beef, chunks of fried potato, slabs of fish, cheese and biscuits with corners. These cunning cooks can even make a chicken with corners. Squared off, though, are the puddings.

And what puddings they are: yellow sponge with pieces of mystery fruit inside; green mousse topped with a swirl of non-dairy cream; sometimes even green mousse sandwiched between two layers of yellow sponge. In normal circumstances, you'd give anything green and sweet a wide berth if you wanted a long life, but you have a little taste because you've eaten everything else, and before you know it, it's all gone.

This isn't a problem, however, as calories get lighter the higher up you go, so by 37,000 feet they hardly have any effect at all. This means you can eat the pudding without guilt, even if you never touch them back on earth.

Then you can sit back and wait for some smiling member of the cabin crew to bring the tea and coffee. This, too, is a welcome change from the usual eating-out experience of snooty waiters. And they don't even expect a tip. Well, I could always add something to the bill, you think. Then you remember: there won't be a bill. You settle back with a contented sigh: not long till the next meal.



Tony Healy, Australian cryptozoologist, addressing the UnConvention: few of the yowie stories he's heard begin with the words 'well, I'd just come out of the pub...'

Mykel Nicolucci

Hairy, smelly, spooky

The man above is lecturing *The Fortean Times*' annual UnConvention on the subject of the yowie, or Australian Yeti. The theme of the event? Millennial psychosis, of course. By Andrew Mueller

During the slower stretches of the morning lecture on UFOs, pseudo-science and new religions, the man sitting in front of me reads a red pamphlet advertising a company that offers the chance to get married in a zero-gravity environment. The rest of the auditorium seems largely composed of unaccompanied, dishevelled, red-eyed males, their faces encrusted with the artless stubble of those who have no reason to bother, scribbling intently in notebooks.

In the room across the hall, merchandising stalls teem with *Star Trek*, *Star Wars* and *X-Files* toys, flying-saucer egg-cups, rocket-shaped salt-and-pepper shakers, and books with titles like *How to Contact the Dead* and *Particulates*. A computer offers to read your aura for £15 a go, and some sort of ICA-affiliated group touts for volunteers to participate in a - hopefully purely theatrical - re-enactment of the 1978 mass suicide by the followers of loony evangelist Jim Jones.

In the lobby downstairs, a small flock of Marilyn Manson clones perch on the edge of their chairs with cups of tea and earnestly discuss recent developments in spirit photography - a phenomenon which, given that they all look as if they are well used to looking in mirrors and seeing nothing, may represent the only chance any of them are ever going to have of getting a passport for their holidays in the gloomy, forested uplands of Transylvania. By the entrance behind them, new arrivals are welcomed by

a small child dressed as an alien.

This year's UnConvention is the sixth annual para-scientific talk-fest staged by the reliably entertaining and intriguing journal, *The Fortean Times*. And is the biggest yet, drawing speakers from all over the world and a crowd estimated by Paul Sieveking, one of *FT*'s editors, at somewhere between 1,000 and 1,500. For two days, this mostly quiet and cheerful crowd partake of seances and psychic energy experiments, and shuffle dutifully between lectures; in this latter respect, at least, UnConvention feels a bit like being back at university, except that everybody arrives before 11 o'clock and the lecturers are a good deal less demented. The scheduled topics include millennial psychosis, poltergeists, monsters and - of particular interest to this Australian-born attendee - yowies, the mythical giant apemen occasionally spotted galumphing through the forests of the Great Dividing Range.

The yowie is introduced to a somewhat bemused audience on the Saturday afternoon by a likeable, softly-spoken Australian cryptozoologist researcher and writer called Tony Healy. Healy specialises in mythical and semi-mythical Australian fauna, from the Tasmanian Tiger (which definitely existed once and may still do) to the bumpy (which probably never existed but might have), though the yowie is his driving passion. Since the late 1960s, Healy has been compiling reports of sightings of apemen all over the world - the American Bigfoot, the Canadian Sasquatch, the Nepalese Yeti and the yowie of his homeland.

Having previously thought that claims of yowie sightings were generally the province of people who'd either been at the blue mushrooms or out in the sun without a hat, I am impressed by both the lengthy list of testimonials that Healy submits and the equanimity with which he admits that the sole, hurriedly snapped, ill-focused, black-and-white photo of a yowie he has ever managed to acquire "could just as easily be a penguin, really".

Healy's self-effacing approach to his area of interest is very much in keeping with the *Fortean* ethos - the *FT* itself generally regards paranormal phenomena and their more excitable adherents with an amused disdain. In fact, if

superstitious I get, I am beginning to think there may be something uncanny or paranormal about the yowies. Yeah - you can see them, and I've never heard any doubt from the people who have that they are flesh-and-blood creatures, but you can't kill them, for whatever reason."

The dozens of eyewitness reports - including one by a federal Senator, Bill O'Chee - that Healy has collected in his decades of research yield both remarkable similarities (the loping, ape-like gait, the thick all-over hair, an overwhelmingly foul body odour, often likened to burnt electrical wiring) and maddening inconsistencies (casts of alleged yowie footprints range from three-toed to six-toed). Healy also

depicted in cave paintings that long predate the British invasion of the continent. While it is easily conceivable that a violent, knuckle-dragging, pot-bellied, no-necked, sub-human could lurk in the subconscious imaginations of Europeans, there is no way that the early Australian aboriginals could ever have seen either giant apes or Rugby League.

"I do still kind of reckon someone will get something on film one day," says Healy, who is yet to see a yowie himself. "I just hope it's me."

In a suite of rooms away from the lecture halls, UnConvention also attempts some semi-scientific research into psychic phenomena. An installation called *The Mind Machine* aims to determine whether or not people can influence as definitively indiscriminate an outcome as the flipping of a coin (in my case, no: I score a statistically entirely predictable two out of four).

An organisation called ASSAP - the Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena - is also running a series of events intended to find out whether or not human beings can influence the apparently ungovernably random through sheer force of will. This, of course, is exactly what high street bookmakers do every day of the week, but the ASSAP exhibit has the advantages of not costing anything and being less full of depressing old men with oo elbows in their jackets. I join the queue of people trying to roll abnormally high or low totals on five dice, guess what's on hidden cards, and move a scale by thinking at it, and return thoroughly ordinary results. I ask if anyone ever

manages anything different.

"Not often," admits an ASSAP member, with a you-don't-have-to-be-crazy-to-work-here-but-it-helps grin. "But two people did move the scale last year."

The last thing I do is attend one of the seances, where 16 of us hold hands in a dark room and, to the accompaniment of suitably portentous taped piano music, try to get some objects, daubed with glow-in-the-dark paint, to move about. The tambourine, the bell and the slate stay obstinately put, but the wicker ball appears to roll about a bit and float, briefly, and the candlestick falls over with a startling bang. Both of these could have been engineered easily enough by either the host, Dr Richard Wiseman, or someone under the table, giving the tablecloth a tug, but when the lights come back on, one of the other seance-goers is pale and shaking, and another is struggling with tears.

The governing theme for this year's UnConvention was, inevitably, the impending millennium and the madnesses associated with it - although, ironically, the increasing attendance at successive UnConventions may be, like the rising memberships of apocalyptic cults and interest in the paranormal enumerated by a couple of UnConvention lecturers, a result of exactly the same contradiction: that of a godless world approaching a portent-laden date. We all want to believe in something.

"We hadn't had a decent yowie sighting for years," Tony Healy told me. "But there's [sic] been about a dozen in the last few months."

Healy admits that the sole, ill-focused, black-and-white photo of a yowie he has managed to acquire 'could just as easily be a penguin'

UnConvention has a serious flaw: it's that most of the speakers seem less interested in their putative subjects than fascinated by the people who take those subjects at all seriously, and so much of the weekend basks in an inevitable atmosphere of self-consciously ironic superiority.

However, when I speak to Healy the following day, he does, eventually and shyly, suggest that he believes that there may be something more to the yowie phenomenon than he let on during his lecture.

"The longer I stay in this business," he says, hesitantly, "the more

concedes that the lack of photographic or skeletal evidence is baffling, but contends that remarkably few of the yowie stories he has heard begin with the words "Well, I'd just come out of the pub..."

"There's no reason why these people would make these stories up," he argues. "You know what Australians are like - any excuse to laugh at people."

Another factor that continues to gnaw at Healy is that the yowie, or something very like it, exists in Aboriginal as well as Anglo-Saxon Australian folklore, and appears to be

We're students and we don't care

Final term is underway. The house is a tip, exams are nigh, the future's grim. Better get a job at Harrods. By Cayte Williams

THE FINAL exams of the second year are looming, and everyone's feeling tense. Robbie has recently returned from the Easter break at his parents' house in Leeds. He's feeling parental pressure to do well, but he reckons that's a good thing.

"My mum and dad brought us up to be ambitious; they wouldn't have anything else," he explains. "They are a little bit pushy but I feel quite lucky to have parents like that. I'm not sure how they feel about my work at the moment. I know that they think I drink and go out too much... and since I got back to Manchester I've been going out every night. Now I need to stop and settle down."

But Robbie has a tough act to follow. Both his sisters were model students. "My elder sister, Rupa, went to Bristol and she's just perfect and really intelligent. She got three

distinctions out of four exams in her psychology MA, which was the highest result out of the whole of the university. My other sister, Rita, was an energy broker, but now she wants to do more environmental work. She did really well at college, too."

Moreover while Robbie's academic record is up to scratch, his parents are not impressed with his choice of accommodation. "They've been here," he explains of the run-down house where all the students live, "and they think it's very gross - they reckon I should be tidier. My mum thought the bathroom and kitchen were absolutely disgusting. I tell them both that we're students and we don't care."

Robbie reckons his mum and dad don't understand what it's like for students in Manchester. "My mum went to college in India and lived at home," he continues, "and

my sisters lived in really nice accommodation. Rupa did her degree at York and lived in a great Victorian house, while Rita lived in decent halls in Luton. Manchester hasn't really got nice houses for students, unless you pay loads of money. This estate agent told me there are so many students here that there aren't enough houses for them, so owners can charge a lot for rubbish."

Meanwhile, the students are being hassled by their landlord again. "We've had a letter from him saying he's going to come around and inspect the house, and if it isn't clean he's going to send some people in and charge us £100," explains Robbie. "He's basically being arsey about everything." Robbie's also worried about getting his deposit back when he moves out in the summer. "We all put down £220 each, but I don't know whether we'll ever get

THIS STUDENT LIFE



SUMMER TERM, WEEK 1
AT THE MANCHESTER
STUDENT HOUSE

that back." Robbie's hoping for better luck for next year. He's already looking for a house to share with five different friends. He's not going to share with any of his current housemates. Why not?

"Everyone here is leaving Man-

chester for a year out, apart from Dave, and he wants to go back into halls," he says. "He thinks he can make more of university and have a really hectic year before he leaves. I want to live in a house, because it will be quieter, but I would have liked to have lived with Dave."

Rosie has just come back from Catford, south London, where she's been staying with her parents. "I'm glad to be back in Manchester again," she explains, "because it's a smaller city than London and everything's easy to get to. You can pop down to Sainsbury's and go to nice bars and stuff. It's more of a big deal to go out in London."

Not that she's got the time to go out anywhere at present. "I've got eight exams coming up, so I'm revising a bit of everything. I haven't got a revision plan or anything like that. I'm not a born organiser."

When her nose isn't in a text book, Rosie's coping with revision pressure by planning her summer holidays. "I want to go to Switzerland to visit a friend there," she says, "but I also want to visit my family in Italy. My dad's side come from a little village near Naples, and I saw my granddad, aunt and cousins when I went back last year. Also, I really want to go to Mexico at the end of July with five friends. Oh, and then I'm going to France with my boyfriend afterwards."

So how is she going to pay for all this travelling?

"I won't be able to do everything, because I can't afford it," says Rosie. "I might be able to afford Mexico with my loan, but I'm just going to try and get a job here."

"Mind you, I could always go back home and work in the Harrods sale again."



ROBBIE
studying
economics



LEONA
was studying
maths



DAVID
studying
management



IAN
studying
geography



TASH
studying
management



ALISTAIR
studying
management



ROSIE
studying
French

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HEALTH

New anti-ageing treatments promise to slow the process of growing old – if you can afford them. By Polly Sellar and Roger Dobson

The price of eternal youth

Once, the bearer of a crinkling complexion had two options: to grow old gracefully or to submit to the scalpel. Now dermatologists seem to have discovered a Third Way. The latest option for those hoping to turn back time lies in cosmetic dermatology, a relatively new medical specialty. This involves the use of recently developed skin drugs to reverse some of the age-related changes that mark out mature faces, and devices, such as lasers, that quite literally obliterate them.

As with so much in Western life, the US is at the forefront of these developments. There are just 300 dermatologists serving the entire UK population, compared with tens of thousands in the US. Extraordinary advances in the understanding and treatment of ageing skin has meant that there are many more medicines willing and able to eradicate your lines and age spots.

Not all wrinkles are inevitable signs of the ageing process. Many, if not most, are in fact the result of sun damage. The result of both holiday burn and imperceptible daily wear and tear is what's now termed a "prematurely" aged skin – a thinner, less elastic dermis (the lower level of your skin) and a thicker, toughened epidermis (the outer layer). The naturally aged skin, by contrast, exhibits a fine, thin epidermis and a springy, thick dermis with lines forming almost exclusively where the skin folds to allow for facial movements.

So if you feel your face betrays your youth-

If your concern is, instead, the depth of the creases that traverse your face, or the deflating nature of once full and youthful lips, a filler may be prescribed. Collagen is the best known of them, but is rapidly being eclipsed by newer replenishing agents. Your own fat can be a source of facial-line filler and many dermatologists now believe that it can be the longest-lasting of all the temporary fillers. The newest filler, however, is permanent, albeit reversible. Softform is a surgically inserted, hollow, pliable tube of non-porous Gortex. It is usually used along naso-labial folds (the "smile" lines running from the nose to around your mouth) or along the vermilion border of lips to increase their volume. Once in place, your own tissue grows into the hollow to anchor it.

Botox is perhaps the most exciting weapon in the dermatologist's anti-ageing arsenal. It's not a filler, but it can soften existing lines and prevent future ones. It is taken from the botulism bacterium, but is purified before being injected into the muscles that are responsible for frown lines, crow's feet, and even neck lines. Its effects are temporary, up to three months for the first injection but progressively longer for each subsequent treatment.

But if your complexion is crinkled beyond the help of these methods, you might try laser resurfacing, the newest variation on the chemical-peeling process. The latest generation of lasers can obliterate a birthmark, zap warts, erase spider veins, remove unwanted hair, and iron out wrinkles and age-spotted skin.

Of the many different lasers in use, the two employed for skin resurfacing procedures are the CO₂ and the erbium-YAG. Both work by vaporising the water content of a cell, which results in a burn. The skin is so keen to regenerate itself that it

does so without bothering to replicate many of the lines it built up over time.

With all new medical technology come voices of caution. And those raised in relation to cosmetic dermatological should be doubly heeded, not least because the rules and regulations governing who can do what to whom in this country are astonishingly lax. You can't really go too far wrong with AHAs, but higher-strength ones – those above 15 per cent – should be used under the supervision of a trained physician. Retin-A, or Retinova, can only be prescribed, but some disreputable companies got around this by setting up GPs in offshore locations who issued "prescriptions" to mail-order customers. Use too much Retin-A, or use it on the wrong sort of skin, and you can end up with a very red, raw face. And despite their "new improved" status, lasers remain highly destructive. Dermatologists admit they are on a steep learning curve as to what they can do, and that it's a full-time job keeping abreast of the developing technology.

There is now much more than simply "hope" in a jar of skin cream. But those keen to benefit from the latest advances should be aware that these treatments are not as risk-free as the sweet-smelling concoctions we're used to buying. With any cosmetic procedure, you want to be certain you're remedying an existing problem rather than creating a new one.

PS

For a list of dermatologists, contact: British Association of Dermatologists (0171-333 0266)



Sunny disposition: soaking up the rays takes its toll on skin. Sun-worshippers may be among those trying anti-ageing treatments

Edward Sykes

A time-machine in a tablet

AN ANTI-AGEING treatment nicknamed the "time-machine tablet" is about to land in Britain.

The capsule of compounds, based on extract of crushed grape seeds, has been hailed by celebrities such as the French actress Isabelle Adjani and Princess Caroline of Monaco, who claim that it puts a break on advancing years by combating skin damage from sun, pollution and smoking, and smoothing out wrinkles to keep them young.

The supplement, Oligomeri Pro Anthocyanidolic capsules, or OPC, is claimed to have an antioxidant effect 50 times more powerful than vitamin E and 25 times more powerful than vitamin C. It is said to work by blizzing the body with antioxidants, currently the fastest-growing sector of the health supplement market.

No disease or infirmity seems too big a challenge for antioxidants. They can, it's claimed, delay or prevent the onset of cancer and heart disease, slow down the ageing process, extend life span, boost fertility, reduce memory loss and keep the skin young. These compounds are produced by the body and also occur naturally in many foods, including broccoli, tomatoes, nut oil and spinach.

In the body, they protect cells from being attacked by free radicals, which

are produced naturally by metabolising cells, and can damage DNA.

The question is whether taking supplements containing antioxidants can boost the body's capacity to fight off the ill-effects of ageing, or whether they are merely excreted – as expensive urine. Experts are still unsure.

There is also concern that much of the research work that has been done with antioxidants has been done either in the laboratory, or on animals.

"The concept is a valid one but there has not been the scientific scrutiny that they really do produce the benefits in humans that are claimed. Most of the systemic, internal studies on antioxidants have been done on animals," says Professor Nick Lowe, a dermatologist at the Cranley Clinic in London. "There you can show decreases in risks of skin cancer and other cancers with some mixtures, but I think it is rather a leap of faith to believe you are therefore going to get improvements in humans."

"We did a study when I was at the University College of Los Angeles, which lasted eight years, where we looked at using beta carotene as an antioxidant. We wanted to see if there was any reduction in skin cancer when you supplemented diets with beta carotene

compared to placebo. We found no benefits. There have also been studies on bowel cancer, but to my knowledge there has not been a published study on the systemic effects of antioxidants on ageing in the human skin. Many of the activities of antioxidants are presumed from how they work in the test-tube."

As we get into our thirties and forties the levels of antioxidants, like many other things, start to diminish. It's believed that production of the enzymes that neutralise the free radicals can be encouraged by supplements, and by eating food containing antioxidants.

One man who is in no doubt about the value of taking antioxidants is Professor Lester Packer, head of the Packer Laboratory at the University of California. He says that they can both prevent disease and extend life span.

"Thousands of studies have now confirmed that antioxidants can help prevent numerous diseases and will not only enhance life, but in all probability extend it. There is overwhelming scientific evidence demonstrating that those of us who eat a diet rich in antioxidants and take antioxidant supplements will live longer, healthier lives," he enthuses.

There are scores of different types of antioxidants, but Professor Packer and

his team have identified a number of key players – vitamins C and E, lipoic acid, glutathione, and a special molecule he calls COQ10.

"What we have found here is that these work together to bolster and strengthen the entire defence system. When combined they greatly enhance the activity of one another," he says.

OPC, from Laboratoires Caudalie in Paris, is designed to increase the body's levels of antioxidants by the use of grape seed polyphenols mixed with borage and primrose oil.

Many people regularly take antioxidant supplements, and many more have changed their diets to include food rich in natural antioxidants. But it is still not known whether synthetic antioxidants are as good as the real thing.

"We know how antioxidants work and from animal studies we know they are beneficial, but there is still a debate on the benefits of taking antioxidant internally to combat free radical damage. For many people the jury is still out," says John Lovell, a cell biologist.

Professor Packer, however, practises what he advocates with daily diet boosters. And that, he says, is why he is still a full-time scientist at 71.

RD

A high price for the NHS

THE CALL came late on Thursday evening as I was preparing to go home. "Would you be interested in a medical negligence case?" asked a woman's voice.

I admit that my heart sank. Like all health reporters I am a target for aggrieved patients wanting to tell of the crimes and misdemeanours of the NHS. Invariably there is too much detail and too little proof, and the cases are repetitive.

I gave my standard response. Would she like to set down brief details on a single sheet of paper and send it to me? "So you are not interested," she said. I paused. I don't know why I relented – perhaps it was her flat Yorkshire vowels, or her matter-of-fact delivery. "All right," I said. "Tell me, as briefly as you can."

The Independent was not the first newspaper she had

called. Others had responded as brusquely as, at first, had I. But as I listened I realised this was a story worth telling. The case of Patricia Briody, who gave birth to two stillborn children and had her womb removed before the age of 20, who spent 15 years in ignorance of what had happened and then a further 10 fighting for compensation to pay for, she hopes, two surrogate births, appeared in yesterday's newspaper.

Mrs Briody had an abnormal pelvis, which was too narrow to allow her to give birth naturally. That might, just, have excused her doctors when her first pregnancy ended with an emergency Caesarean and a stillborn child. But when it happened a second time, with disastrous consequences (an emergency hysterectomy), it

HEALTH CHECK



JEREMY LAURANCE

looked like culpable carelessness. She was childless, barren and still not 20 years old.

Hers looks like a cast-iron case for compensation and 25 years later that is what the courts have agreed. And yet, and yet. She was offered, and turned down, first £50,000 and then £100,000. If her final award were twice this sum – which is unlikely – it would still be

small compared with the £2m and £3m awards made in the last year. But, as with all negligence claims, when the huge costs of the case are added in, it remains a major drain on the NHS.

For, make no mistake, justice for Mrs Briody is bought through the imposition of a tax on the sick. The cost of meeting claims like hers is rising at £100m a year and now tops £300m a year – £300m that is paid out of the NHS budget and would otherwise be available to improve run-down hospitals, train more obstetricians and improve maternity care.

Mrs Briody argues, with justice, that when you look at the sums awarded in libel actions to minor celebrities who have suffered nothing worse than a blow to their pride, £100,000-plus for the loss of a family seems a

paltry sum. But in a public service like the NHS should not different rules apply? Negligent staff should be penalised and injured patients compensated, but though the award of punitive damages may save the consciences of those responsible, it can only harm patients who come later by depriving them of already limited resources.

Yesterday marked the launch of a new, fast-track process for dealing with medical negligence claims which should help to stem their ferocious growth and improve satisfaction for damaged patients. Some measures should be simple to implement. If Mrs Briody had had an apology and a full explanation 25 years ago, she would have been saved a lot of pain, and the NHS would have been saved a heavy bill.

MY SPLEEN was ruptured in a car accident and had to be removed in an emergency operation. I have been advised to take penicillin daily for the rest of my life. Is this really necessary?

It is possible to live a long, healthy life without a spleen, but you are at increased risk of potentially life-threatening infections caused by the pneumococcus organism. A daily dose of penicillin will substantially reduce the risk, and many people without spleens take it for years with no apparent ill effects. You may also be offered vaccination against pneumococcal infection for added protection, but you still need to take penicillin.

OUR FAMILY is currently in the middle of an epidemic of ringworm. One child's hair has fallen out and two of us have itchy, scaly skin patches. This is the second time it has happened. Is there a way to prevent it? Ringworm is not caused by worms, but by microscopic fungal organisms that cause a ring-shaped rash. A second at-

A QUESTION OF HEALTH



DR FRED KAVALIER

tack may be caused by a dog or cat carrying the disease, with no symptoms. An anti-fungal cream will quickly get rid of the skin infection. Scalp infections may require several months of treatment by mouth. A specialist laboratory can look at scrapings from the skin to see what organism is causing it, and how to treat it.

FOR YEARS I have had an overactive thyroid gland. Each time it flares up I am treated with carbimazole tablets and beta-blockers. My specialist has now suggested radioactive iodine treatment,

to cure the problem once and for all. Will it work, and is the radioactivity dangerous? This destroys the thyroid gland so it cannot become active again. Radioactive iodine is usually given as a drink. It is active for only a few days, and the success rate is high, though you may have to take thyroxine tablets. There is no evidence of a risk of cancer or any other serious illness.

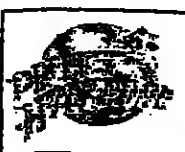
Please send questions to A Question of Health, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; fax 0171-293 2182; or e-mail to health@independent.co.uk. Dr Kavalier regrets that he cannot respond personally.

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As part of our major series on the state of Scottish arts in the run-up to devolution, Suzanna Beaumont issues a warning against relying on past glories, while Tom Lubbock finds he can't move for Paolozzis at Edinburgh's Dean Gallery



The grass is always greener

Back in 1996, the artist Ross Sinclair constructed *Real Life Rocky Mountain*: an astro-turfed slice of undulating mock "ruralness". Installed at Glasgow's Centre for Contemporary Arts, it was viewed as a parody of the Scottish landscape tradition, an interrogation, if you will, of "Scottishness". With its running burn and stuffed examples of indigenous wild life, you could almost whiff the Famous Grouse wafting from the work's mountain-top hotby.

Three years on, devolution is imminent and it is seen as timely to run a state-of-a-nation-to-be cultural check-up. Is indigenous "Scottish art" likely to over-imbibe on "Scottishness"? Far from it. Scotland's contemporary art scene is more vigorous and worldly than it has been in decades. But let's cut the labels. "Scottish art" is a suffocating blanket of a term. It offers up exclusion zones to the hundreds of artists who have made Scotland their home over the years precisely because it is not hell-bent on parochialism. Here, we are talking art from Scotland.

Yet despite signs of rude health, fears are not unknown: namely that Edinburgh might choke on an overly buttery shortbread finger. A knowingly good-looking city, it's a capital that can contentedly peddle its past. But this is no good thing. Even its annual *fringe* with contemporary culture, the Festival and Fringe, has for years left unmoved a somewhat moribund and conservative art scene.

The National Galleries of Scotland, under Timothy Clifford, have seemed more caught up with drawing-room miceties than the pursuit of curatorial adventurousness. The Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art continues to put on unmerited, large retrospectives of dead Scottish artists, while the opening of the Dean Gallery last month, the latest addition to the National Galleries, demonstrates more the interior decor sensibilities of Edinburgh's Georgian New Town than clean-cut internationalism.

Yet the Dean's temporary exhibition space could prove a real runner if curatorial complacency is nudged, as has been the case with the city's other galleries. Contemporary art spaces such as the Collective, Stills and Inverleith House have shown increasing confidence to tally with internationalism, not provincialism. Even the Fruitmarket Gallery, Scotland's "leading contemporary art venue" - at times a misnomer - seems to be throwing off its timidity. No longer so dependent on "buying in" tour circuit exhibitions, this Festival they're showing work by the acclaimed American artist Kiki Smith.

Moreover, a number of galleries are wising-up to the talents of Scotland-based artists. Over the next few months work by Callum Innes, Richard Wright, Martin Boyce, Wendy Murdoch, Moyna Flannigan and Rose Frain, together with so-called emerging artists Paul Carter, Chad McCall, Shauna McMullan and Janice McNab, will be exhibited, something near unimaginable a few years back. And if plaudits were needed, in May 2000 the British Art Show, the hip touring show of new generation artists, will open in Edinburgh. Organised by London's Hayward Gallery, it is evidence, many believe, that the city is now receptive to contemporary art.

Glasgow, however, still holds its own as the more resolutely contemporary of the two cities. In many ways, Edinburgh and Glasgow - only a 45-minute drive along the



Pastures new: Ross Sinclair's 'Real Life Rocky Mountain' (1996) called into question the meaning of 'Scottishness'

M8 divides them - have played out cultural rivalry much like Italian civic states back in the 15th century. It's easy to talk about Glasgow as a city with a "can do, will do" attitude: politically manhandled over the decades by Westminster; its ever-robust socialist sense of community is still keen.

Yet artist-led initiatives such as the international group show *Windfall* in 1991, through to more recent "at home" art shows or an innovative programme of public art projects, do energise the city. Glasgow School of Art and its post-graduate course is one of the most dynamic in Britain, and the artists who enrol tend to stay. They cite a sense of community and cultural openness as reasons.

But there have been slaps in the face. The city's Gallery of Modern Art, which opened in 1996 under the slogan *Art For People* with a mish-mash hang of work, was spoon-fed culture at its worse. Where was the work by Glasgow artists Douglas Gordon or Christine Borland, many asked? Gordon, a winner of the 1996 Turner Prize who premiered his famous *24 Hour Psycho* at the city's Tramway in 1994, is frequently cited as an international star who has been failed by the art acquisitions programme of both Edinburgh's and Glasgow's galleries.

There is, however, a sense of Glasgow taking stock. Perhaps now in the art world equivalent of the chill-cabinet, its two major arts venues, Tramway and the Cen-

tre for Contemporary Art, are closed for Lottery-funded refits while Bridget McConnell, appointed last year as the city council's director of culture and leisure, is currently thrashing out an arts strategy. Arguably the "Central Bell" monopoly of art activity is not what it once was. The opening of Dundee Contemporary Arts last month, with its avowed policy of internationalism rooted in a "best of art from Scotland", joins an *Tuileann Arts Centre* on Skye and Inverness's *ArtIm* as venues that are fuelled by the belief that investment in culture makes good economic sense. It puts you on the map and is a tug for tourists.

The Scottish Arts Council (SAC) has been instrumental in promoting this cultural op-

portunism. Whereas England labours under both an Arts Council and a host of regional arts boards, in Scotland the SAC holds supreme. Employing a programme of direct grants and residencies abroad to artists, the SAC has helped put the brakes on concerns of cultural isolation.

Moreover, the SAC is aware of having to maintain a sharp act. Their future under the new government is by no means secure. This doubtless spurred the launch of "Creative Scotland". A national cultural strategy drawn up by the SAC and four other arts organisations, it argues that an effective cultural policy is fully integrated rather than tacked on to government strategy. But the SAC still needs to use its clout.

Scotland's new Parliament is currently being built in Edinburgh and speculation is on-going as to if artists will be brought in to contribute to the design process, a practice which is today seen as a more sophisticated alternative to parachuting in corporate-looking artworks at the eleventh hour. If such initiatives were taken, Scotland's arts policy could be seen as consciously pioneering.

Dangers are, of course, out there, such as Scotland dozing off, satiated with self-contentment. The art scene has to ensure it doesn't become too matey, nor critical debate too lazy. For the moment, however, it augurs well.

SB

Selling sculpture by the pound

A conspiracy, perhaps. Well, it looks like it might be. I mean, when a sculptor, a conspicuously dreadful sculptor, seems to have a city pretty well on a plate, one naturally starts speculating about old chums, blood ties, kick-backs, funny handshakes and knowing where the bodies are buried. Oh, but let me withdraw those remarks unreservedly. I have no conspiracy theory to offer. I have no evidence at all. I am sure that there is a perfectly innocent explanation. And I certainly wasn't for one moment thinking of Sir Eduardo Paolozzi and the city of Edinburgh.

Sure, Sir Eduardo's work is all around Edinburgh. Edinburgh was his birthplace, 75 years ago. One may presume an element of local favour. But then, his work is even more all around London. There are three public pieces in Edinburgh (plus some works in the new Museum of Scotland). But there are five public pieces in London - most recently the variation on Blake's *Newton* outside the British Library - and six if you include the mosaic decorations to the Tottenham Court Road tube. It's everywhere. And if Sir Eduardo were really the centre of a vast web of intrigue, that would at least lend an air of romance to the facts. But I fear the innocent explanation is the true, and the much sadder, one.

Namely, that often as not, the patrons of public sculpture simply haven't got a clue. They have power, but no eye and no idea. They look at these great bronze pile-ups of machine and body parts and they genuinely cannot see an oppressive and

stupefying monumentality as it stares them in the face. Actually, they probably like it. They only wanted an imposing lump in the first place. A lump Sir Eduardo will certainly do you. His remarkable achievement has been to take Surrealist collage, and to eliminate from it all wit, sex, surprise and menace, to serve it up cold and stodgy. And his works have other qualities guaranteed to appeal to the clueless commissioner of public art.

They mean nothing. That is crucial, because any specific meaning is liable to cause somebody offence, and so must be avoided. On the other hand, they're rich in gestures that satisfy the vague ideals of the average public brief. They feature the human figure. That is good, it is humanity, we are still much in favour of that. But these figures are variously fissured and fragmented, and that is Modern, and we definitely wouldn't want not to be. What's more, they're diagrammatised, anatomised, slotted together with mechanical, geometrical and biological elements, and that is Science and Intellect, which are very important things (bridging the "two cultures," you see). And there's the odd reference to older art, which is Our Cultural Heritage, and very important too. Sir Eduardo's sculptures provide much the same service as Henry Moore's once did. For those who just want something, they seem to have everything.

It's all very unfortunate. These disastrous works are now ill placed and will presumably remain so for ever. We frequently knock down buildings, we almost never

get rid of public sculptures. Too bad. But the idea that, over and above this legacy, Paolozzi should require a personal monument, a museum largely dedicated to him, an actual Paolozzarama, surely beggars belief. Well, all right, it doesn't. Anyway, it opened in Edinburgh last month.

The Dean Gallery is directly opposite the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art. It's a restoration/conversion of a sober Greek Revival building with crazy chimney towers - originally the Dean Orphan Hospital. Its dorms and schoolrooms are now exhibition spaces (plus shop and café). Quite a few original orphan features are retained: note the shoulder-high safety banisters on the stairwells. And though everyone's struck by the discrepancy of grand facade and limited indoor volume, gallery-wise there's potential here.

There's some perfectly fine art in it, too. One of the downstairs rooms now houses what was the Modern Art Gallery's Surrealist collection, good Miro and Magritte, a cute

Edward Wadsworth. Upstairs, the rooms are for contemporary art shows - currently, the Andreas Gursky photos that were at the Serpentine Gallery earlier this year. Sounds OK so far, I hope. But it would give a truer impression to say that although there are points in the Dean Gallery where, if you keep your gaze firmly fixed before you, you cannot see any work by Sir Eduardo, there aren't many.

There's not just a lot of it. Its presence is pervasive and structural.

The Paolozzi Gift, "generously presented" by the artist - who wouldn't give generously to their own memorial? - consists of *Vulcan*, a two-storey-filling robot thing; another variation on Blake's *Newton*, (below) as the centrepiece of the café; a room full of his electro-turd sculptures from the Fifties; and a reconstruction of part of the artist's studio, shelves of plaster casts of all sorts of

objects made and found, of feet, heads, gizmos, toys, model replicas of famous statues, the artist's tall-mans and ingredients (awaiting combination and enlargement into one of his street monsters). And you may be thinking, all this stuff could simply be removed, couldn't it? Placed out of sight somewhere, and then the gallery would be all right?

Not so simple. These plaster casts proliferate, infiltrate themselves throughout the building. The place has literally been remade for them. Wherever you turn there's a cluster of them, in nooks, up on ledges, through optics. Take the stairs and notice an opening in the floor, glassed over, as if there was an archaeological remain beneath: there's a bunch of them there. Upstairs, look under your feet: there's a transparent roundel with more inside. Everywhere, the knick-knacks of Paolozzi's creativity. We're to feel we're inside his imagination's shop.

This isn't the worst of it. The worst of it is that the whole gallery is designed as a magic grotto cum fancy boutique where - mediated by these ubiquitous knick-knacks - souvenir and artwork become indistinguishable. All around the downstairs are columns of elegant glass display cases, lit by micro-lights, as you might find in a posh jeweller's, all alike. Some hold expensive merchandise, a "Miro" mug, a "Cocteau" paperweight; some hold tribal objects collected by the Surrealists; some hold sculptures by Ernst and Giacometti; some hold more Paolozzi tat.

The Surrealist paintings them-

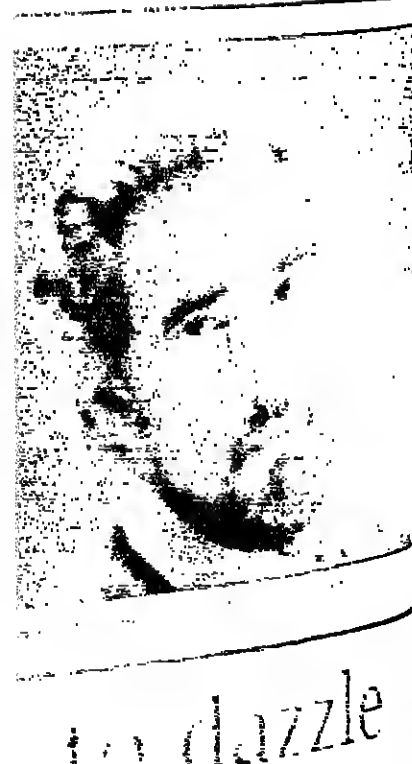
selves are hung higgledy-piggledy up the walls, to discourage particular attention, to create a general spectacle of oddities. Everything is levelled into a culture-curio. This isn't a place for looking at art, but for going ooh and ah, for getting - I've not seen it done so explicitly before - an art-experience. Bad. Bad.

For good, go to Dundee. Dundee Contemporary Arts opened last month too. Of course over the last year or so, there've been a lot of these openings, as the first fruits of the Lottery came through. Most of them have been either revamps, like the Serpentine in London, or conversions, like the IKON in Birmingham. This is purpose-built and it really shows. I suppose there isn't as much literal volume here as in either of those buildings. But the two main Dundee galleries managed to carry a startling amount and variety of works, without them crashing into each other - the point of the very miscellaneous opening show, Prime, was evidently to show this capacity off.

Offhand, I can't think of many more desirable contemporary exhibition spaces in Britain. Everyone always claims to like the historical weight and resonance that come with a recycling job: "Did you know, this used to be an old sock factory?" It's nice to know that new still works.

TL

The Dean Gallery: 73 Belford Road, Edinburgh EH4; 0131-624 6200. Dundee Contemporary Arts: 152 Nethergate, Dundee DD1; 01382 432000



MEDIA

Andrew Gumbel feels sickened by the relentless exploitation of personal grief he saw after the school massacre in Colorado

How we feast on tragedy

He wanted to be known just as Zach, and even that might not have been his real name. After all, by the time

he spoke up, he was sick of the media and wasn't going to give them any more than they had to know.

This time last week, Zach was inside Columbine High School, in the suburbs of Denver, when two of his schoolmates burst in with bombs and semi-automatic weapons in a suicidal orgy of violence that left 15 people dead and more than 20 injured. He was among the first to escape and spent several anxious hours unsure whether his brother, friends, or teachers were alive or dead. At times he broke down in tears, at others he leaned on the shoulder of a classmate for emotional support.

And then that night he switched on the television. "There I was," he roared. "I'd become the icon on SNBC. They came back to me every time they took a break for commercials. I never asked for this, nobody sought my opinion. Frankly, this was the last thing I needed."

Zach felt his privacy and intimate notions were violated just as he was at his most vulnerable. And he far from the only one to react that way to the media onslaught on Columbine High over the past seven days. The networks and the newspapers have talked incessantly about letting the healing process begin, but the truth is they haven't even the students a chance.

The school parking lot, the nearby park where an impromptu shrine has taken shape, the local churches, the library, the houses of individual

students - all have been under virtual siege by television cameras and reporters as the world has clamoured to find out what exactly happened in those four terrible hours and, more particularly, why. There has barely been a tear shed or a desperate hug offered in a public place that hasn't instantly found its way on to video and been broadcast on network news around the world. In an overwhelming situation like this, the media cannot be an innocent bystander. As the cameras dart around Columbine Park, site of the impromptu memorial where the media has set up its headquarters, and pick off any visible sign of heartbreak or despair among the mourners, it is impossible not to reflect that television reporters, in their own way, shoot schoolchildren, too.

"They're like rats," muttered one 15-year-old Columbine student to her friend, not realising that a journalist was within earshot. "They're all over us because we're big news for now, but soon they're going to lose interest and scuttle away to the next thing and dump us like we don't matter any more."

As terror-stricken teenagers have microphones thrust in their faces and are asked over and over to delve into the gory details of their horrifying experiences, one can only wonder what psychological damage is being inflicted on these fractured young lives.

With each day the hostility became more palpable. On the first night, reporters could roam at will among parents waiting to hear about the fate of their children, among students at church services, and among relatives gathered in hospital waiting rooms to find out whether loved ones had survived.



How much does the world really need to know about the full extent of these children's trauma? And doesn't media coverage exacerbate it?

AP

Within three days, however, reporters were being dumped unceremoniously in the snow outside churches and other public buildings and told to wait for the students to volunteer themselves for interview. Security guards in the Southwest Plaza Mall hovered menacingly over anyone brandishing a notepad, threatening to expel them. Neighbours of the two dead killers, having answered the first 50-odd questions, started slamming doors in reporters' faces.

While the media might claim to be performing a valuable public information service, educators and psychologists with experience of school shootings are in no doubt that the real healing can only begin when the media tires of the story and

skips town. "It's absolutely essential that everyone should be able to mourn in privacy," says Larry Bentz, principal of Thurston High School in Springfield, Oregon, where a student killed two of his classmates before turning a gun on himself last May. "I thought the media presence was appalling then, and I think it is appalling now."

Mr Bentz is convinced that talking to the media in the first flush of shock, when victims are barely in control of what they are doing, can exacerbate the trauma. He harnessed the media from his school from the outset, and continues to do so. If a student wishes to talk to a journalist, it must be outside the school premises and at the student's instigation only. (Which is not to say he

does not believe the media has a place - he was unflinchingly helpful to this reporter.)

In Springfield, almost none of the students wanted to talk. In Littleton, though, students have come to Columbine Park every day with the express intention of addressing reporters. In some cases it has turned into a game: if one member of a group has been on *Dateline*, someone else will try to get on to *Forty-Eight Hours*, or *Inside Edition*, or one of the other network's magazine slots.

"It helps validate what happened for them," suggested one local school-board member. One has to wonder, however, about the mental health of a girl like Bree Pasquale, who appeared on television in deep

distress on the first day as she described having a gun pointed at her head for 10 minutes. She continued to give interviews on subsequent days, looking surprisingly composed and relaxed. It was only over the weekend that her mother told a local paper that she did not sleep or eat for 72 hours.

As a member of the media covering the shootings myself, I can only express my deep discomfort at the sense that I and the swarm of colleagues around me were intruding on other people's grief. I tried to talk to people at one or more removes from the tragedy - children at other local schools, pastors, educators, investigators and politicians - and observe those directly affected from a discreet distance.

These are only half-measures, of course, and the experience has left me feeling dirty and unsure as to how much the world really needs to know - in these very early stages, at least - about the full extent of the trauma. I would rather go back in six months' time and then ask the hard, complex questions, when people have recovered sufficiently to give thoughtful answers and are also able to shield those who are vulnerable from prying eyes. But the news business is a voracious monster, and it wants - we all want - answers and images and raw emotion, right here and right now.

We might fancy that we feel empathy for the victims, but the truth is that we are feasting on them like vultures.

It may be a concrete hell, but it suits me

So what if you can't find a good chardonnay or decent curtain fabric in White City? It beats Broadcasting House any day, says Roger Liddle

"S ALMOST a year now since BBC Radio as dragged kicking and screaming from its W1 redoubt, Broadcasting House, and all the occasional bowl of anguish can be heard from the news centre in White City. And it's a bit puzzling, as someone prepared bowl in anguish with the best of them, find that the complaints about our new home leave me pretty cold - and ever so slightly embarrassed.

The dissident view can be summed up thus: "It was lovely in BH. There were lots of wine bars and pubs and we could nip down to John Lewis at lunch time and browse through the soft furnishings. So vilified. And BH had character! Now we're stuck miles from nowhere in a concrete hell and there are next to no pubs and there's a huge council estate next door. Now, don't get me wrong, public housing is a terrific thing and the people are, I'm sure, charming, but is it absolutely necessary to have them living right next to our park?" That's the gist, anyway, together with a frequently repeated assertion that the news centre in W12 has been "designed by someone with no experience of making programmes". No, really? You mean, like an architect?

Mine are somewhat heretical views, but when I never spent my lunch-times at W1 sitting pissed or searching for curtain material, it's undoubtedly true that BH was surrounded by drinking-holes, each of which had its own specific clientele and purpose. The World at One drank exclusively at The Dover Castle; *Today* favoured the King's Head. There were pubs to go to if you wished to conduct a clandestine affair with a newsreader; pubs to go to if you wished to ingratiate yourself with management. There was even a pub - the like The Chestnut Tree café in - well's 1984 - where dissidents gathered before being shot. Now we only have a council estate. Never mind.

Never mind because Broadcasting House was, in many ways, an appalling place to work. The cramped, sweltering offices; the continual building work; the dark (dark?) smell always present along our corridor, which I'm told came from the canteen but was redolent of an even less savoury source - and the vermin. In the old W1 office I saw a mouse skitter across the floor and a woman stood on her chair and shrieked. And there were fleas; liberal, well-educated, middle-class fleas, perhaps, but fleas all the same.

The more substantive complaints were based around the fear that the BBC intended to merge programme and radio news teams and that the resultant pro-

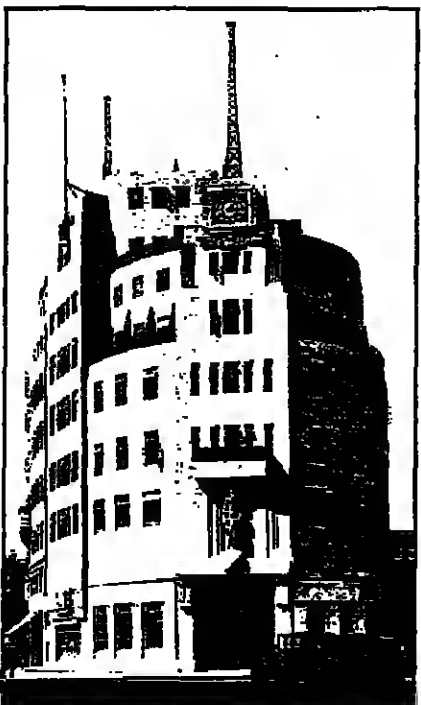
grammes would be a homogeneous mush. But, in fact, over the last year the agendas of *Today* and *Breakfast News* have, if anything, diverged further. This, despite the fact that we work in the same office. And we go on with our TV colleagues just fine: we co-operate - to the licence-payers' benefit - in a way that would have been unthinkable just one year ago. Our initial assessment of the differences between us - they're better-looking than us, but more stupid - still holds, but despite that, it's a warm and growing relationship.

One thing, though: when television people pass you in the corridor they always give you these big grins, because they think you've recognised them because they're famous. Well, we haven't; you're not; stop it. So, I'd rather not return to BH. There are still a couple of problems with our new home - too many guests refuse to come in for interviews and I'd like more privacy in our programme areas - but by and large, it's an improvement.

A few weeks before we left Broadcasting House, I sneaked off to the gents for a cigarette as usual, only to find the door sealed off with that red tape the police use when there's been a murder. I ducked underneath anyway and saw a quite breathtaking sight. A man in blue overalls was poking the ceiling with a long pole. Each time he did so, goblets of ordure splattered down on to the floor, the walls and him. "Blocked up, innit," he said, and added, "Look at me! I'm at a party in half an hour."

So, BBC management - the Corporate Centre - is welcome to BH. And for my colleagues here, pining for John Lewis and a good chardonnay, I say don't worry; we'll find you a good local haberdashers - and White City is awfully handy for the Cotswolds, no?

The writer is the editor of Radio 4's *Today* programme



The way we were: BH in W1

What the BBC needs is a publicly-elected Dyke

IF THIS were America, the post of director-general of the BBC would be an elected one. So, even now, the various candidates for the vacancy caused by the departure of Sir John Birt would be mailing out their manifestos and polishing their slogans. And, I should guess, the man campaigning under the slogan of "I Like Dyke" would not only enjoy the rare privilege of becoming a lesbian icon, but might very well win.

Greg Dyke could make an astute appeal to voters based on his record as both a successful businessman and a programme-maker; he could add a promise to maintain BBC standards while ensuring continued mass popularity; and - not least - he could pledge to use his undoubted influence with a Government that itself stands high in the polls. His unstuffy manner and counter-Oxbridge way of speaking, as though his words were being strained through a thin quilt, would all help him. The fact that he'd given money to help Tony Blair get into Number 10 would be no problem at all. Quite the reverse.

But the job isn't elected. It isn't even, really, appointed. Not in the straightforward sense of a series of interviews being held and the best person for the job being rung up and congratulated, and that's it done and dusted. The director-generalship is a deeply political post, decided in a wonderfully shadowy way. Right now, long before the process is finished, various governors of the BBC will be coalescing around this candidate or that candidate. And if the chairman of the Beeb, the redoubtable Christopher Bland, doesn't know whom he wants as DG, then I'm a lead singer in a boy band. It's what he's for, after all.

What he may not know is whether he can get his person in. In fact, none of the favoured front-runners is a woman. The BBC is not a commercial operation, and Bland



DAVID AARONOVITCH

cannot simply hully his fellow governors into compliance. And he must know that they themselves are being remorselessly lobbied, not just by the aspirant DGs themselves, but by just about everyone employed by the Corporation. Careers way down the organisation absolutely depend on the outcome of this appointment. There are undoubtedly 29-year-old assistant producers in light entertainment who will be calculating, down to the very month, what the impact on their promotion prospects would be of a Yentocracy, say, versus a Byford regime.

The rest of us, however, are still completely in the dark. What is it that the governors are looking for? His lazier critics have painted the catholic Birt as a son of the Inquisition, demanding true faith from his employees lest they feel the lick of purifying flame. History (in so far as it will be bothered at all) will probably portray him as the man who saved the BBC first from Thatcherism and then from bankruptcy.

But there is no such thing as an institutional settlement for the BBC that will see it through the next 70 years, as it has the last. Things are changing far too quickly. No one has the least idea what the impact of digital TV will be on broadcasters over the next 10 years.

Some favour a nice, slowish evolution towards a 50 per cent share

of the market for the main conventional terrestrial channels (as happens in the US). Others believe that the channel-controllers will wake up one morning and find the whole nation watching items on fishing, origami or anal sex on TV sets programmed just for them.

In either context, what will justify the public funding of the BBC will not be how many people are watching BBC1 at 8pm versus how many are tuned into ITV. A ratings war with purely commercial telly is almost exactly the opposite of what the BBC currently needs. Competition in terms of quality? Yes. An eye to the audience? A dumbed-down, sod-the-News-get-me-Cilla bare-knuckle fight? That would be nothing short of a catastrophe.

This is going to be, I grant you, a hard trick to pull off. Persuading the world that quality, innovation and distinctiveness (which are impossible to measure) are more important than straight viewing figures (which aren't) will be a tough battle. It will require an aggressive reaffirmation of the BBC's core role.

Now, if Greg Dyke is on for doing all this, then he will have - I think - the public credibility to pull it off. His appointment, under these circumstances, would appear to be murky only if the Board of Governors were not to be absolutely open about their strategic and personal reasons for having appointed him. And if Greg isn't on for it and yearns (as some Harvard-trained types do) to turn the Corporation into a commercial broadcaster, then he shouldn't get the job anyway.

Oh, and here's another little thought for next time. Why should not the applications of all the candidates for the post of DG, their supporting statements and their plans, be published on the Internet for all of us to look at?

We pay after all.

Mazher Mahmood of the *News of the World* uses subterfuge to nail the bad guys. But how does he decide what's in the public interest and what's a stitch-up? By Rachel Thackray

The merchant of doom

Johnnie Walker, the soothing voice of Radio 2's *Drivetime* and Saturday afternoon programming, has been suspended by the BBC. Last week, a reporter from the *News of the World* claimed Walker was filmed cutting cocaine and offering to supply prostitutes to visitors from overseas. Another scoop notched up for Mazher Mahmood, the paper's Investigations Editor.

One hopes this latest victim won't resort to the tactics of one of Mahmood's previous targets. In 1997, the *News of the World* ran a story claiming that Paul Moyle had offered a hit man £5,000 to have Mahmood gunned down. The hit man turned out to be another reporter. "He's worse than the police," the paper reported Moyle as saying. "Other villains won't do business with me since I've been in the paper."

Even after being sacked by *The Sunday Times* for deception, Mahmood received the industry stamp of approval: he was voted Reporter of the Year in March for scoops including his exposure of the Newcastle chairman and vice-chairman Freddie Shepherd and Douglas Hall last year. His editor has good cause to be pleased. While other Sunday tabloids have slumped, the *NoW*'s sales figures remain healthy at 4.13 million.

Little is known about the man himself. The paper uses a silhouette of his face for a picture byline. Mahmood, known as Maz to friends, is in his mid-thirties, from the West Midlands, and is the son of a magistrate. *NoW* editor Phil Hall rates Mahmood as "the best reporter in the business by a long way. He's extremely bright, intelligent and very, very careful. I can't remember a libel writ against him, and we have millions of letters each week."

Others are less enthusiastic. Publicist Max Clifford is critical of the way Mahmood operates. "He came up to do an interview with a client, and as soon as my back was turned, he was trying to persuade the client to deal with him directly. It was nipped in the



Above, left: Douglas Hall and Freddie Shepherd, the Newcastle directors exposed by Mahmood. Right: Johnnie Walker, the Radio 2 DJ suspended after allegations of drugtaking

but, but that's the kind of thing he does. I have been dealing with the editor of the *News of the World* for years, and Mahmood's the only reporter who's ever done that. It speaks volumes."

Mahmood is, apparently, equally careful in his elaborate subterfuges, using a camera lens the size of a drawing pin, which he conceals in his jacket lapel. "You have to be able to think on your feet," said Hall, citing a recent example in which Mahmood posed as an Arab. "He didn't realise the contact was going to bring an Arab with him. He started to speak in Ara-

bic and Mazher turned it on his head by going into a complete rage, shouting at the subject and saying, 'This is an insult to my nationality and a terrible insult to my host country'. It can be very dangerous. He has a minder with him all the time. He must be the only reporter in the world who regularly has people turning up on his doorstep at 6am."

While Mahmood's track record is beyond doubt, his methods are not. There have been allegations of "canibalsim", a reference to the fact that he has repeatedly exposed immigrant scams, such as the staged weddings

which help illegal entrants to Britain to get visas.

"There's an unease in the fact that as a non-white journalist, he spends an awful lot of time exposing black and Asian crimes," said one journalist, who declined to be named.

Phil Hall denies this: "I don't think he does any more Asian stories than others. He's of Asian appearance and so he's going to mix in those circles." He added: "We have done a fair few immigration scams. But he would never do a set-up. If somebody comes to us and says Johnnie Walker is doing drugs and I will supply them and you



can catch him', we'd run away from it. It has to be the person you are targeting as the perpetrator and instigator of what's happened."

Media commentator Roy Greenslade wrote what Hall called a "hatchet job" on Mahmood, following the Newcastle exposé. At the time, Hall was quick to respond to the criticisms: "I am amazed you have printed such an extraordinary, unbalanced attack... one sometimes has to use subterfuge to nail the bad guys. If it's in the public interest, what's the problem?"

Public interest is precisely the problem, said Greenslade. "You have to treat every story on its own merits. You have to ask: is there a public good being served on this occasion? There's a fine line between setting someone up, and catching them in the act. I know the problems the *NoW* has had in catching someone in the act. They have to prepare a scenario, because it's the one way they can get tape or video recording. And at that, Mazher is the world's greatest living expert."

"The rule of thumb, based on my instinct, is this: is the person being exposed acting in their private life, or did their public position warrant that they were guilty of gross hypocrisy? With the Newcastle story, I decided there wasn't enough public good. These two were lured into a very neat set-up, and I don't think it was right."

THE WORD ON THE STREET

PHIL HILTON, editor of *Later*, the new IPC men's magazine which launches tomorrow, is reflecting ruefully but philosophically on some prime empty hillboards which should have been carrying ads for his magazine. Poster company TDI decided yesterday it was unhappy with an ad saying "Get the coke for Jamie's party" with boxes to tick - one saying two litres, the other saying two grammes. "It was just making a joke, a pun," says Hilton. "We were using the drug to symbolise the conflict between the hedonism of youth and the responsibility of growing up." No doubt he will be just as philosophical when the poster companies see his next symbolic conflict, an ad saying: "Grass - mow it or smoke it?"



DAVID MONTGOMERY's desire to buy the *Express* titles is not just causing panic among his former employees who thought they had escaped. Sub-editors on the *Express* are approaching or past middle age fear the arrival of the man who kept a curious picture on his wall at Mirror Group Newspapers when he was chief executive, and would lead visitors over to it. The picture was of the *Daily Mirror* subs desk with a youthful Montgomery on it. He had moved onwards and upwards, he would explain, but the other unfortunates were still subbing away, lacking his entrepreneurial spark. *Express* subs should brush up on their business plans.

JON FLOWMAN, head of comedy entertainment at the BBC and producer of *The Vicar of Dibley*, is evidently stung by criticisms of BBC sitcoms over the last week - criticisms attributed to the director general among others. At the Montreux Festival this weekend, Flowman was heard rubbishing his European competitors. "They're all about big sight gags which are widely signalled right the way through. European sitcoms make Terry and June look like an evening with Patrick Marber."

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I'll see you out of court

Enough litigation madness! The Woolf reforms will knock heads together and encourage claimants to settle. By Robert Verkaik

Yesterday's momentous changes in the civil courts came too late for Rotherham widow Hazel Archer. For the last 10 years she has been embroiled in one of the longest house repossession cases in history. There has been such delay and uncertainty in her case that she has been forced to keep all her plants in pots at the back of the house because she didn't know whether she owned the garden earth in which she wanted to plant them.

In 1988, the Northern Rock building society sought possession of her home after she was unable to pay back a £21,000 loan linked to the mortgage. The case became further complicated when she sued her former solicitors for not advising her properly in the transaction. Last year, after half a million pounds had been spent on the case, the Court of Appeal finally ruled in her favour.

Mrs Archer's case is the very type that the Woolf reforms are intended to help. Her lawyer, Louise Sykes of law firm Irwin Mitchell, said: "I would now expect this case to be heard within two years, maximum, and I would expect the parties to have had their heads banged together to come to a settlement."

From yesterday, incompetent lawyers will be penalised by judges, frivolous and vexatious claimants will have their cases struck out, and legal bills will be proportionally limited to the value of the case. In short, justice is expected to be quicker, cheaper and fairer. The reforms, part of recommendations made by Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, also include greater emphasis on alternative dispute resolution.

Under the new procedures Mrs Archer's case would be heard much quicker, the legal costs would be restricted and both parties encouraged to find an alternative solution at an earlier stage.

The reforms are also designed to stop the sort of litigation madness which allowed a Sheffield man to sue 113 different people including his milkman, gasman and finally, God. It cost him just £60 to cause a lot of misery for innocent people who found themselves having to go to the expense of defending writs. From this week, the merits of a case like this will be assessed much more quickly, and additional payments on top of the writ or "claim form"



Hazel Archer is locked in a 10-year legal dispute over her house. Under the new Access to Justice Bill, such cases will be resolved more swiftly. Joan Russell

fee, will kick in so that only those serious about their litigation can move forward.

The legal profession is expected to hit the ground running, and judges have already warned lawyers to expect little mercy if they walk into court unprepared. But old habits die hard, and on Friday the High Court taxing office was crammed full of solicitors desperate to submit their last bills under the old, more generous costing rules. But many lawyers still have reservations about the initial success of the new system.

Sir Richard Scott, the Vice Chancellor head of civil justice, has already said that the courts' new

computer system will not be up and running for at least another 12 months. Ian Walker, president of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers, said: "It's all very well expecting us to be proactive and dynamic, but if the technology can't deal with the changes then there will be problems." Louise Sykes also warned: "It's all right for those who can pay for a Rolls Royce legal service - but what we don't want is lawyers cutting corners."

Yesterday was also the day the Law Society chose to launch a radical newspaper advertising campaign attacking Government proposals to change legal aid. Ac-

cording to the Law Society, a number of underprivileged people will be worse off if the Access to Justice Bill is enacted. One of the cases that the Law Society is highlighting concerns a Bradford couple, Roselyn and Christopher Fontaine, who were stopped by police while driving home from a wedding. They were assaulted, falsely imprisoned and faced a number of trumped-up charges which were later dismissed by a magistrate. The Law Society says: "Luckily, thanks to legal aid, the couple were able to highlight this example of police misconduct, by being able to sue West Yorkshire police in the High Court." In November 1997

the couple were awarded £18,000 in compensation. The Law Society adds: "Without legal aid, solicitors won't be able to do this kind of work. Only the very rich will be able to pursue such cases."

One of the ads placed in national newspapers shows a black man who claims he has been "stitched up" by the police. The advert says: "Under the Access to Justice Bill, legal aid won't be available unless he can prove he is almost certain to win his case - even though it's against the State." At the bottom it adds: "The parents of the late Stephen Lawrence share these concerns about the impact of the bill."

The Law Society describes the Access to Justice Bill as a "crude attempt to ration people's access to their rights." Law Society president Michael Mathews said: "The advertising campaign is a wake-up call about the threat to justice posed by the Access to Justice Bill. There is a real danger that the Government, despite the view of its backbench MPs, will push through proposals that will deny justice to many of the poorest and most vulnerable people in society." This is the first time the Law Society has taken out advertising to oppose Government policy. It is a decision that has annoyed the Lord Chancellor, Lord

Irvine of Lairg. He said yesterday that he was "very disappointed" and accused the Law Society of "scaremongering." He added: "Many vulnerable people will be made to believe that they will lose their access to legal aid. That is just not true. In fact, legal aid will be available in precisely the types of cases raised by the Law Society." The Lord Chancellor's Department has gone to a lot of trouble to answer each of the Law Society's criticisms. It takes issue with almost every thing the Law Society claims and describes as "myths" the five case examples chosen to illustrate how people will be worse off under the new Bill. In the case of the Fontaines, the Department says that because police brutality and false imprisonment are not examples of negligence, legal aid would remain available.

What the Lord Chancellor will have more difficulty defending is the result of a survey carried out by Harris and commissioned by the Law Society. It showed two thirds of Labour MPs believe the Government's proposals to open up justice will have the opposite effect. Ninety-six Labour MPs responded to the survey, which also found that two thirds of Labour MPs thought legal aid should be a right. The Bill proposes to scrap legal aid in most types of personal injury and replace it with a "no win, no fee" arrangement for financing litigation. Under Woolf, the two sides would be encouraged to mediate as soon as possible.

What does Woolf mean?

Fast track: uncomplicated cases under £15,000 will be heard more quickly - within 30 weeks of the start of proceedings.

Multi-track: claims above £15,000 will go to the County Court. Claims above £50,000 will go to High Court.

Hands-on judges: judges will have greater powers to stop lawyers using delaying tactics or making unnecessary applications.

Mediation: judges will get parties together at an early stage in order to assess whether an alternative to litigation would be a more suitable course of action.

The cost of litigation: It will be more expensive to bring a case, but cheaper in the long run as judges will keep down overall costs in proportion to the case.

Rights and wrongs of war

Lawyers have swapped gowns for camouflage to advise the Army in Kosovo. By Robert Verkaik

THREE YEARS ago, Jo Bowen was a newly qualified solicitor working the magistrates' court lists in Bath. Last week she found herself among the tens of thousands of Kosovo refugees at the Macedonian relief camp of Brazda. She was asked to advise on an incident in which a Macedonian soldier had used his rifle butt to strike a Kosovar Albanian. Major Bowen is one of two solicitors sent to Macedonia by the British Army to advise its commanders in the field on rules of engagement and the protocol of the Geneva Convention.

But while the Army waits for orders to enter Kosovo, and it becomes more caught up in the daily tragedies of the refugees, Major Bowen has had to tailor her legal ad-



Major Jo Bowen: from magistrates courts to a Macedonian refugee camp. Major Ian Seraph

A soldier can only use 'reasonable force' to deal with a threat from a sniper

vice to suit the Army's ever-changing role. The Brazda request for help came from British soldiers working at the camp who had heard about the assault. "This is a very tricky situation," explains Major Bowen. "The only way a British soldier could help is by somehow coming between the rifle butt and the refugee, and using the law of self-defence."

The Brazda incident highlights the increasingly legal complexity of stationing a peace-keeping force carrying out a humanitarian mission on neutral territory in a war zone. It needed to be handled carefully as there is no existing bilateral agreement between the host nation, Macedonia, and the UK, to govern the British Army in Macedonia.

There are practical difficulties too. "The camps are run by the Macedonians and the UNHCR. Our influence here, in terms of security, is limited," says Major Bowen. If NATO gives the order for its forces to go in to Kosovo, either as peace-keepers or to take on the Yugoslav army,

Major Bowen and Major Eliot Glover, the second solicitor deployed, will be expected to play a battlefield role. "We may not be riding in the Challengers," says Major Glover, a solicitor in Torquay until two years ago, "but we will be with headquarters vehicles, available to give advice on the ground where needed." NATO's legal tactical support has been strengthened by the arrival of two more UK lawyers who joined the NATO headquarters in Skopje earlier this month.

The principal legal challenge thrown up in a peace-keeping operation is expected to focus on the soldier's right to protect himself. Snipers will be among a number of possible headaches for commanders and legal advisers on the ground. UK domestic law and Army regulations mean the soldier can only use reasonable force to deal with the threat. A sniper taking occasional pot-shots at a British Army unit will not merit a disproportionate response if the soldiers are there solely to keep the

peace. For example, a heavy concentration of artillery fire to take out a single sniper may not be justified. To remind them of their duty to the law, every soldier now carries a special law card which outlines the law of self-defence.

If the political leaders give the order for a ground offensive, which turns into a "full-blown" conflict, the soldiers will be subject to new rules. The lawyers will have to advise on the interpretation of the Geneva Convention. And as combatants,

the two lawyers, part of the Army Legal Service and each armed with 9mm pistols, are not only expected to provide legal input but also, if necessary, to act as soldiers in the field. Major Glover is attached to 4th Armoured Brigade, a force of 3,000 soldiers, 14 Challenger tanks and two companies of Warrior infantry. Major Bowen is part of the National Support Element attached to the 1,200-strong combat support group which services the Brigade.

While the Army awaits NATO's order to move in to Kosovo, much of the legal work relates to the Army's relationship with the Macedonian authorities. This relationship has already been tested. A number of road traffic accidents involving British Army vehicles led to the

'Things develop very quickly so we brief commanders on a number of scenarios'

Macedonian authorities ordering soldiers to appear before their courts by summons. Major Bowen explains: "I had to meet the local police chief and explain that we had exclusive jurisdiction in these matters." The poor roads and the Macedonian custom of driving hell for leather whatever the road conditions has led to a number of crashes. Some of these "smash and bash" cases have already generated compensation claims. Major Glover helped to set up a proper legal procedure so that local people whose property or land has been damaged by the Challenger tanks or other heavy armour can be compensated.

While the lawyers on the ground have no say in the legal consequences of going in to Kosovo, they do have to respond to an ever-changing political climate. "Things can develop very quickly here," says Major Glover, "so we have to brief commanders on a number of possible scenarios. The situation is changing all the time."

BRIEFS

IT IS the one word that can strike fear into the heart of the most litigation-hardened company executive. McLibel, the most fearsome neologism to ever enter the legal lexicon, was uttered again last week in the High Court in the case of Mansanto and Genetix. Snowball, where Mansanto, the GM food producers, are seeking an injunction against five women who allegedly trespassed on their land. One of the defendants told the court that she and her colleagues had every intention of defending the case in much the same way as the McLibel Two had done, which ended in the longest case in English legal history. But perhaps just as worrying for the company is the fact the defendants are, unlike the McLibel Two, legally represented by another name that can cause directors' pulses to race - Leigh Day & Co, the personal injury supremos.

SENIOR PARTNERS in Northern Ireland law firms seem to have trouble sewing on their own buttons and brewing up a decent cup of tea. According to a survey carried out by the Equal Opportunities Commission of Northern Ireland, one out of three female lawyers has experienced sexual harassment. Although there were a number of cases of "wandering hands" and "body brushes" in the office, most complaints concerned old-fashioned chauvinism. Women complained of being forced to carry out "stereotypical tasks" including tea-making, babysitting, and "softening up" clients, as well as sewing on buttons. These findings compare poorly with the results of similar studies recently undertaken by the Policy Studies Institute on behalf of the Law Society of England and Wales, which showed that one in 10 women solicitors had experienced sexual harassment.

SOUTH PARK, the popular American cartoon series, bas

joined Linford Christie's lunchbox and Gazza as the latest example of contemporary western culture to escape the attention of the judiciary. Last week, Mrs Justice Arden came face to face with the cuddly toys alleged to represent Kyle, Stan, Kenny and Cartman, when they were carried into court as evidence in a passing-off action. While the judge had to admit ignorance, Adrian Speck, counsel for the claimants, said in court: "In my chambers, all the unmarried young men are very keen on it."

THE DOUR omnipresence of Terry Irvine has done nothing to dampen the spirits of those working in his department. In this month's edition of *Hearsay*, the strictly in-house journal of the Lord Chancellor's Department, there is a guide to what the now defunct legal Latin terms really mean. Ad hoc, according to the magazine, is "publicity for a pawnbroker" while *Doli incipit* is "the work-shy underclass that's undermining the fabric of our great British society". Other suggestions are: *Ultra vires* - you've got a heavy cold; *Prima facie* - what you look like before you put your make-up on; *Forum conveniens* - large public toilets.

CLIFFORD CHANCE, the UK's biggest law firm, is not content with its pre-eminent status in Europe. Rumours have been rumbling along for several months that its senior partners have been in negotiations with one of New York's finest, the attorneys of Rogers & Wells. If the rumoured deal goes ahead, this would be the largest ever transatlantic merger. The strategy behind the merger would enable Clifford Chance to take on the New York law firms in their own back yard, and give the combined firm some real global clout.

ROBERT VERKAIK

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12.30pm 2.30pm 4.30pm 6.30pm 8.30pm

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COVENTRY (011-711-6300)
@ Coventry Cinema (18) 10.30am 12.30pm
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IPSWICH

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LEICESTER

LEICESTER (011-711-6300)
@ Leicester Cinema (18) 10.30am 12.30pm
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NORWICH

NORWICH (011-711-6300)
@ Norwich Cinema (18) 10.30am 12.30pm
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PLYMOUTH

PLYMOUTH (011-711-6300)
@ Plymouth Cinema (18) 10.30am 12.30pm
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ABERYSTWYTH

ABERYSTWYTH (011-711-6300)
@ Aberystwyth Cinema (18) 10.30am 12.30pm
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AYLESBURY

AYLESBURY (011-711-6300)
@ Aylesbury Cinema (18) 10.30am 12.30pm
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BASILDON

BASILDON (011-711-6300)
@ Basildon Cinema (18) 10.30am 12.30pm
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BATH

BATH (011-711-6300)
@ Bath Cinema (18) 10.30am 12.30pm
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LITTLE THEATRE

LITTLE THEATRE (011-711-6300)
@ Little Theatre (18) 10.30am 12.30pm
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BOBINS CINEMA

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BOURNEMOUTH

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TUESDAY TELEVISION

THE TUESDAY REVIEW
The Independent 27 April 1999

ROBERT HANKS TELEVISION REVIEW



IT'S OLD, that so many films have been based on the premise that blonde have more fun, when the biographies of the blonde who appear in the films hardly ever bear that out. Look at Brigitte Bardot (architect) or Marilyn Monroe (scholar) or Diana Dors, who ended up as a writer. Or look at our own Doreen Green, who ended up as a writer. Or look at our own Doreen Green, who ended up as a writer. Or look at our own Doreen Green, who ended up as a writer.

BBC1

- 6.00 Business Breakfast** (63005) **7.00 News** (63004)
- 9.00 Key** (S) (T) (63008) **9.45 Celebrity** (63009)
- 10.00 The Big Breakfast** (63010) **10.30 The Morning** (T) (63011)
- 11.00 The Big Breakfast** (63012) **11.30 The Morning** (T) (63013)
- 12.00 The Big Breakfast** (63014) **12.30 The Morning** (T) (63015)
- 1.00 The Big Breakfast** (63016) **1.30 The Morning** (T) (63017)
- 2.00 The Big Breakfast** (63018) **2.30 The Morning** (T) (63019)
- 3.00 The Big Breakfast** (63020) **3.30 The Morning** (T) (63021)
- 4.00 The Big Breakfast** (63022) **4.30 The Morning** (T) (63023)
- 5.00 The Big Breakfast** (63024) **5.30 The Morning** (T) (63025)

BBC2

- 7.00 Children's BBC** (63026) **7.30 Noddy in Toyland** (63027)
- 8.00 Children's BBC** (63028) **8.30 Noddy in Toyland** (63029)
- 9.00 Children's BBC** (63030) **9.30 Noddy in Toyland** (63031)
- 10.00 Children's BBC** (63032) **10.30 Noddy in Toyland** (63033)
- 11.00 Children's BBC** (63034) **11.30 Noddy in Toyland** (63035)
- 12.00 Children's BBC** (63036) **12.30 Noddy in Toyland** (63037)
- 1.00 Children's BBC** (63038) **1.30 Noddy in Toyland** (63039)
- 2.00 Children's BBC** (63040) **2.30 Noddy in Toyland** (63041)
- 3.00 Children's BBC** (63042) **3.30 Noddy in Toyland** (63043)
- 4.00 Children's BBC** (63044) **4.30 Noddy in Toyland** (63045)
- 5.00 Children's BBC** (63046) **5.30 Noddy in Toyland** (63047)

ITV Carlton

- 8.00 GMTV** (2440008)
- 9.00 GMTV** (2440009)
- 10.00 GMTV** (2440010)
- 11.00 GMTV** (2440011)
- 12.00 GMTV** (2440012)
- 1.00 GMTV** (2440013)
- 2.00 GMTV** (2440014)
- 3.00 GMTV** (2440015)
- 4.00 GMTV** (2440016)
- 5.00 GMTV** (2440017)

Channel 4

- 6.00 Sesame Street** (R) (75849) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (65534)
- 8.00 Sesame Street** (R) (75850) **9.00 The Big Breakfast** (65535)
- 10.00 Sesame Street** (R) (75851) **11.00 The Big Breakfast** (65536)
- 12.00 Sesame Street** (R) (75852) **1.00 The Big Breakfast** (65537)
- 2.00 Sesame Street** (R) (75853) **3.00 The Big Breakfast** (65538)
- 4.00 Sesame Street** (R) (75854) **5.00 The Big Breakfast** (65539)
- 6.00 Sesame Street** (R) (75855) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (65540)
- 8.00 Sesame Street** (R) (75856) **9.00 The Big Breakfast** (65541)
- 10.00 Sesame Street** (R) (75857) **11.00 The Big Breakfast** (65542)
- 12.00 Sesame Street** (R) (75858) **1.00 The Big Breakfast** (65543)

Channel 5

- 6.00 News and Sport** (S) (63068) **7.00 Wimbledon** (22348)
- 8.00 News and Sport** (S) (63069) **9.00 Wimbledon** (22349)
- 10.00 News and Sport** (S) (63070) **11.00 Wimbledon** (22350)
- 12.00 News and Sport** (S) (63071) **1.00 Wimbledon** (22351)
- 2.00 News and Sport** (S) (63072) **3.00 Wimbledon** (22352)
- 4.00 News and Sport** (S) (63073) **5.00 Wimbledon** (22353)
- 6.00 News and Sport** (S) (63074) **7.00 Wimbledon** (22354)
- 8.00 News and Sport** (S) (63075) **9.00 Wimbledon** (22355)
- 10.00 News and Sport** (S) (63076) **11.00 Wimbledon** (22356)
- 12.00 News and Sport** (S) (63077) **1.00 Wimbledon** (22357)

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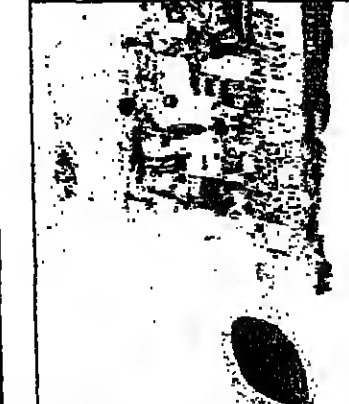
HISTORY SERIES OF THE DAY

READY TO WEAR (9pm BBC2, 9pm) Entertaining look at social change in post-war Britain as signified by the clothes we have worn. Tonight's episode follows the evolution of the suit - from the "fashion wasteland" of the Forties, when a touch of colour in the tie or in the socks suggested a cad or worse, to the "Phil Collins look" of the Sixties, complete with rolled-up sleeves given the types who wore them. This was presumably to stop them dangling in the canteen. Once a man never took off his jacket except to fight, one in four men were married and buried in a tuxedo suit, and the only permitted colours were "manly snuff" - the colours of BO.



DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

MODERN TIMES: THINK OF ENGLAND (9pm BBC2, 9pm) How do you define Englishness? This is the question that Martin Parr takes to the streets, village cricket matches, seaside boardwalks, and the streets of London. He asks the question: what does it mean to be English? The answer, he suggests, is that we are all a bit of a mess. The film is a collection of Parr's photographs, some of which are quite shocking. It is a very good film, and it is well worth watching.



FILM OF THE DAY

ACCIDENT (140m C4) George Huang's *Surviving with Sharks* (1998 C4) is a more aggressive satire on Hollywood types than Robert Altman's *The Player*, with a rich performance from Kevin Spacey as a cynical movie producer. Observers, set your watches for *Accident*, the second of Huang's collaborations with American emigre director Joseph Losey, the other two being *The Servant* and *The Go-Between*. This caustic look at love and rivalry among Oxford academics has its extended flashback triggered by a fatal car accident, and contains great performances from Dirk Bogarde (right) and Stanley Baker.



TELEVISION GUIDE BY GERARD GILBERT